

SLAN

SOUTHAMPTON and MOTHERWELL TEAM GROUPS

SHOOT!

25p

24th JANUARY,
1981

INCORPORATING
SOCCER
MONTHLY

**'CHAMPIONS
ALBION'
claims
CYRILLE
REGIS**

**Sammy
Lee —
vital to
Liverpool**

Joe Jordan (left) of Manchester United beats Ipswich's Russell Osman in a League game at Portman Road this season.

**TOMMY HUTCHISON'S
NEW START AT MAN.CITY**

SHOOT view!

If ever a man had a golden opportunity to take revenge on someone who dealt him a grave injustice it was Brighton striker Michael Robinson.

Malcolm Allison had publicly declared that his only regret, when with Manchester City, had been buying Robinson from Preston for £750,000.

Christmas Week provided Robinson with an opportunity to prove Allison's judgment misguided when Brighton met Crystal Palace, now managed by Allison, in a bottom of the table clash at the Goldstone Ground.

Two goals in a minute from the Brighton striker in the seaside club's 3-2 victory gave Allison no comfort sitting in the stand.

A chance for Robinson to put the boot in to his old tormentor, but to the striker's great credit, he resisted the temptation.

Robinson's pride was clearly bruised by Allison's public pronouncement, yet he wisely decided that no good would have come of a spiteful comment after the game.

The only loser would have been football, and that has suffered enough of late.

Panache

Robinson's reply was delivered in deeds not words. He won his first Republic of Ireland cap after leaving Manchester and has led Brighton's forward line with great panache, despite the club's misfortunes this season. Thanks to his efforts, they could yet escape relegation.

The striker's sportsmanship is a fine example of the efforts being made by players to improve the game's shabby image.

Good sportsmanship is not a weakness. Stanley Matthews, Bobby Charlton and Bobby Moore, three England stalwarts of the past, gained world acclaim for their sportsmanship for club and country.

Their conduct on the sports field opened doors in otherwise politically sensitive areas where lesser Englishmen would have gone at their peril.

The football school, local League, semi-professional level, or League football, the same rule applies.

Michael Robinson won more friends by remaining silent in his moment of glory than he would had he fired a shot in Malcolm Allison's direction.

WEST Bromwich Albion are ready to take on the best, for the League title! That's the confident warning from the Midland club which has won little of the publicity as this season's League Championship chase has hotted up.

Albion are the rank outsiders in the title race. General opinion is that the Champions will be either Liverpool, Ipswich or Aston Villa. But what about Albion, a side which have to be mentioned now

that they've slipped near the top five in the table?

Striker Cyrille Regis maintains: "I think we're ready to go all the way to the title. If we can maintain the high level of consistency we have proved we're capable of, I see no reason why we shouldn't push everyone very close. No one seems to think of us as real contenders but that suits us fine. All the pressure in the Midlands is now firmly on Villa, and they have the problem of learning to live with it."

"I believe we have what it takes. The team is strong in every department, and we have plenty of reserves who can come in if we get injuries. Who hasn't heard of players like David Mills, John Deehan, Barry Cowdrill and one or two others? Well, they're all standing by waiting for their chance if we get injuries."

Albion's current bid for title honours comes after a disastrous slump last season. The previous

for. I don't think we have yet reached it, but it is slowly coming. And when we do hit that peak, we shall be a very good team."

Regis, like his team-mates, struggled for much of last season. He was injured for part of the time, and could manage only nine goals. The fact that he had passed that figure by the New Year indicated his own return to form.

"I'd like to get 20 goals, at least," he says. "The way the entire side is buckling down this season has helped me, because there have been more openings. We are playing well enough to get points regularly, and that's what the title is all about."

"We have played to our strengths, that's our secret for success. We have players who suit our style and we make the most from all their efforts, in whatever position or department they're playing."

"Maybe at times, we think we'd like to be the talk of the town,

'Champions Albion' claims Cyrille Regis

year, they had finished third behind only Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. But from that peak, they dropped to a disappointing tenth place last season — and few at The Hawthorns could understand why.

"We all talked about it at length, but no one could put their finger on exactly why it happened," said Regis. "But the great relief is that we seem to have got through that poor spell, and are now coming back to the form of two seasons ago."

"We played well two years ago, and that's the level we have to aim

rather than hear everyone in the Midlands talk about Villa. However, that means there is no pressure on us and that has to be better for us in the long term. People up here were talking about Villa winning the title two months after the season started. With another seven months left, that was crazy."

But whether Regis' thoughts are correct as to Albion's readiness for the title, only the end of the season will tell. "We need that bit of luck every title winning side has," he adds. "But we do have the ability, I'm certain of that."



The emergence of Aston Villa (dark shirts) this season has taken the pressure off Birmingham rivals West Bromwich Albion (stripes).



TOMMY HUTCHISON

RESCUED BY MANCHESTER CITY

FOR Tommy Hutchison, the ex-Coventry winger now with Manchester City, this season poses a question mark — can the ball-playing Scot carve out a new future for himself at Maine Road after his career with Coventry seemed at the crossroads?

Dropped by Coventry earlier this term, Hutchison was unexpectedly snapped up by newly appointed Manchester City boss John Bond. He had been at Highfield Road since October, 1972, after Coventry had bought him from Blackpool for £145,000, and was noted for his dribbling ability.

Last summer, Hutchison tried his luck in the United States with Seattle, returning to this country only to find that his days in the First Division appeared to be numbered.

"I was left out of the Coventry

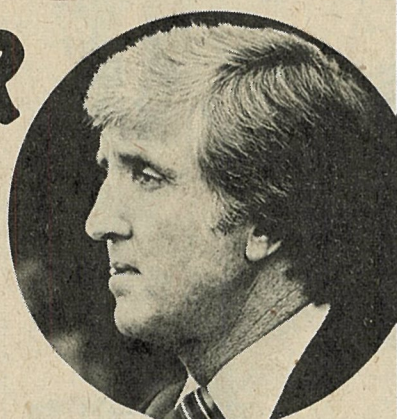
side after a few games, when I felt I was worth my place," says Hutchison. "This led to a difference of opinion with manager, Gordon Milne, because I thought he was wrong in dropping me.

"I decided to wait until the end of the season, when my contract expired at Coventry, and go back to the States."

Hutchison's wife, Irene, had the same idea at that time — she was in favour of going abroad in search of fresh soccer opportunities for her 33-year-old husband.

Now, the former Scottish international is able to review recent events with satisfaction, particularly the opportunity to help in a Manchester City revival.

"I could hardly believe it, being offered First Division football again



John Bond

after being dropped by Coventry, but obviously, John Bond thought I could do a job for him. So I'm hoping I can oblige.

"And I was ready for the challenge with Manchester City. The spell in America had been a boost for me, as I had gone there determined to have a real go — the days when a player could go with the idea of having an easy number are no more.

"Reputations that have taken years to build can vanish overnight if players believe they can fool around in the States — it's taken me ten years to build up a name, and whether it's abroad or with Manchester City I'll always attempt to give value for money.

"In America I had no intention of blowing my reputation with a few bad games, so I didn't regard my trip there as a holiday."

As it happened, John Bond, then manager of Norwich, was in the United States when Hutchison was at Seattle — where he saw Tommy demonstrate his skills and work-rate, thrilling the American fans with his dangerous runs.

Prompted

When Bond became Manchester City boss, the memory of Hutchison's form for Seattle prompted the move in October which took him to Maine Road for £47,000.

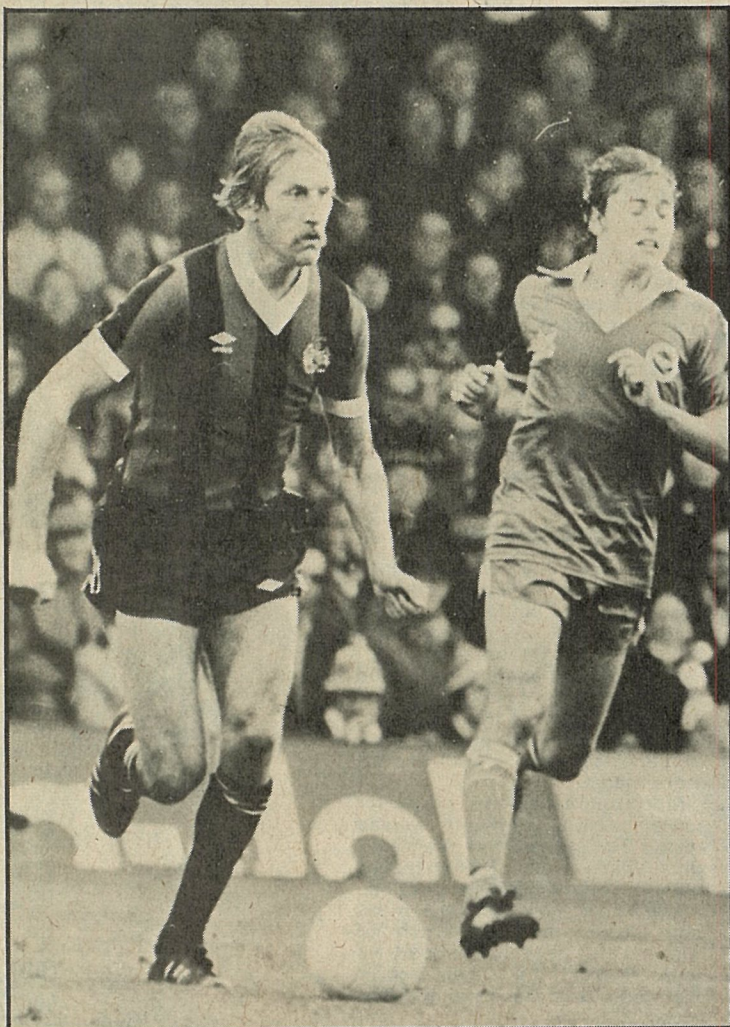
A player whose game is based on change of pace and confidence, in controlling a ball while running with his deceptive, high-stepping action, Hutchison can provide excitement to any match — along with the soccer know-how gained during the last decade.

If some of this knowledge can benefit his team-mates he will be satisfied with his contribution.

He says: "I'll try to give the kids guidance and create a few opportunities by taking on defenders.

"So far the youngsters here are settling down and showing promise, and the fact that I'm relaxed helps my own play on the field. This means a lot to me, especially after thinking I was finished in England.

"However, that's behind me — what I intend to do now is fulfil my two-year contract with Manchester City and perform to the best of my ability."



Tommy Hutchison uses his speed for Manchester City against Brighton.

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, January 17th

Sunderland v. Man. Utd.

THE first time Manchester United (or Newton Heath as they were then known) played a League game in Sunderland they were thrashed 6-0. That was in April, 1893, and they have since suffered several more heavy defeats in Sunderland, notably 6-1 in 1908-09, 5-0 in 1911-12, 6-0 in 1926-27, 5-1 in 1928-29 and 5-2 in 1938-39. However, the situation has changed dramatically in recent seasons and United have sustained only one defeat in their last ten League games at Roker Park, six of which have been drawn.

Sunderland won 4-3 in 1954-55 and did not win this particular fixture again until their last meeting in April, 1977, when Kevin Arnott and Tony Towers (pen.) got their goals in a 2-1 victory just a few weeks before being relegated.

Spurs v. Arsenal

ARSENAL have generally done quite well at White Hart Lane, winning 15 and drawing nine of their 43 League visits and they have been particularly on top in recent seasons, with four wins and two draws in their last nine visits. Indeed, Arsenal's 2-0 win at Highbury early this season was their sixth consecutive victory over Spurs.

Arsenal fans still have fond memories of their 5-0 win at White Hart Lane two seasons ago (Sunderland three, Stapleton and Brady), and Tottenham supporters would have to stretch their memories all the way back to Christmas Day, 1911, for a comparable victory over The Gunners. On that day Billy Minter got a hat-trick and Spurs won 5-0.

Leicester v Leeds

IF Leicester win this Saturday it will be the completion of their first League double over Leeds United since 1934-35, one of the seasons in which Leicester were relegated from the First Division!

To complete this double Leicester will have to improve on their recent home record against Leeds, for they have failed to score in three of their last four League meetings at Filbert Street.

It may hearten Leicester fans to recall that in 1948-49 they beat Leeds 6-2 with Don Revie 2, Peter McKennan 2 and Jack Lee 2, getting their goals. There was also that resounding 5-0 win in 1953-54 when Derek Hines got a hat-trick and Arthur Rowley got two.

This game has resulted in a draw eight times in the last 12 meetings at Leicester.

Norwich v. Liverpool

THIS will only be the 22nd League meeting between these two clubs, and so far Liverpool have won 13, Norwich City five, and three games have been drawn.

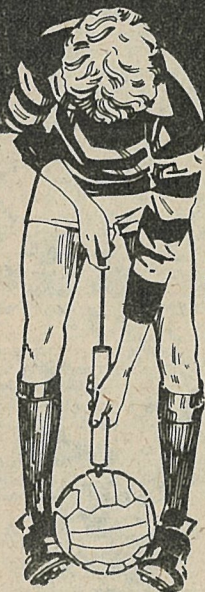
The last time Norwich City beat Liverpool was at Carrow Road in December, 1977, when Colin Suggett and Martin Peters helped them to a 2-1 victory.

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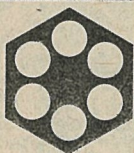
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COVENTRY v. ASTON VILLA January 17th

COVENTRY and Aston Villa must live with a legend when they clash in the big Midlands derby at Highfield Road this Saturday.

The clubs must try to match the skill, fervour, fantastic speed and commitment of a recent derby match which had not only the entire Midlands raving at its quality, but the whole country.

Aston Villa against Birmingham in December still lingers in the front of most soccer fans' memories. It was, in short, a classic of a match and both sides know they will be judged alongside the quality of that game.

Can the two live up to such high expectations this weekend? One man who starred in Villa's win over Birmingham that day believes it's eminently possible.

buzzing at the moment, and the enthusiasm of the young players tends to keep them going even when they get physically tired.

"I always felt that one day Coventry would be a force. I am surprised it's taken them so long but that's probably because the first team they had was broken up and they had to be patient in bringing along the youngsters.

"But I do think they will emerge as a power in Midlands soccer and First Division football in general — as long as they keep their talented players together."

This Saturday, Coventry fans have the chance to acknowledge not only the worthy progress of their own young side, but also the immense contribution Ron Saunders' side has made to the entertainment value within English football this season. They ought to be turning up in their thousands to pack Highfield Road for this match.

All set for more Midlands magic

Dennis Mortimer (right), skipper of Villa, says: "I don't see why this one shouldn't be as good. It wasn't a conscious effort to produce such a great match that day with Birmingham — it just happened.

"The only way to win was to go out and attack and force Birmingham to be open, too. It worked and in the end, both sides were putting everything into attack.

'Impressed'

"That was the best Midlands derby game I'd played in for a long time. And this could be another.

"I've been impressed with Coventry recently, for they've got some great youngsters with good skills and plenty of speed and workrate. They're a thrilling young team and if we both put our game together, the fans could be in for more magic."

Mortimer, a Coventry player for some seasons until he moved across Birmingham five years ago, says Villa's style of play makes such great entertainment possible.

And he certainly backs the promising future of the bunch of talented kids at Highfield Road. He says: "I don't think their lack of experience will make much difference.

"Coventry are a team which is



THE first indication I was about to clock up another milestone in my career came when reporters and photographers approached me for comments and pictures a few days before Liverpool were due to play Manchester United on Boxing Day at Old Trafford.

It was news to me, but I was set to turn out for my 500th League game!

I never keep track of my appearances — only the trophies I help my club to win.

It gave me quite a boost to learn I'm now one of the select band, including my former team-mate Ian

It's made me appreciate the Liverpool set-up and all the benefits I've reaped since joining the big club in 1967 for a very modest fee.

I can still dimly recall my first League game for Scunthorpe. It was against Swansea, who had in their line-up a Welsh international star named Ivor Allchurch. The day was a grey one, and the pitch very muddy. We drew 1-1, but I have no recollection of who scored that very first League goal against me.

As a country boy, born in Skegness, I really felt I had made the big time.

remember my debut with Scunthorpe, I'm hazy about the one I made for the Liverpool first team. I think it was in a League Cup-tie, coincidentally against Swansea, which we won 2-0.

And I believe my first League appearance was against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground, where Ian Storey-Moore put the ball past me for the only goal of the game.

From the hundreds of games I've played since then, two stand out. As you'd expect, the first is a derby game with Everton on November 21, 1970, when we recovered from

on to the pitch to cover it in a carpet of red and white.

But the most memorable sight was when our team coach came to a halt on the M26, where our fans had got out of their transport to continue celebrating.

A journey that usually lasted an hour and three-quarters took at least twice as long that night!

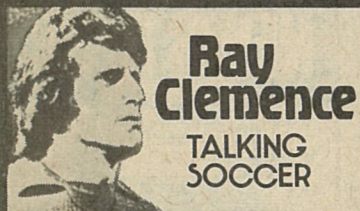
Enough of this nostalgia. The most important game to us Liverpool players is the next — and right now we're preparing to go to Carrow Road to play Norwich City in the League.

Despite only having one major honour to their name — the League Cup in 1962 — Norwich are a success story in their own right, having maintained a position in the First Division for so long in an area with low crowd potential and therefore comparatively slender financial resources.

It's a credit to the board and manager they have been able to build a good side without big money to spend.

Unfortunately, to survive they are forced to sell their best youngsters, Kevin Reeves to Manchester City last season, for instance. And it's only a matter of time before they lose Kevin Bond, and the spectacular Justin Fashanu, who scored the 'Goal of the Season' past me in our previous clash at Carrow Road.

Obviously I'm hoping for the two points we need in our title chase. But I've also got my fingers crossed Norwich go on to amass the points needed to remain in the First. For two reasons: it's good for the game that such a go-ahead little club stays at the top level; and because my best mate, Dougie Livermore, is now coaching their reserve team!



'I JOIN THE 500 CLUB'

Callaghan, to reach the half-thousand mark.

Of course, not all my games have been with Liverpool. I made 48 appearances for my first and only other club, Scunthorpe United, while they were in the Third Division.

What a contrast between life at that level, where everything is on a much smaller scale, and being at Anfield, home of the most glamorous, successful club in Britain.

Money was so tight at Scunthorpe, I had to wear a pair of hand-me-down boots, and it was 18 months before I was given a new pair. We even had to save the tie-ups we used to keep our socks from falling down.

But starting out with a lower Division club has been good for my soccer education, as it's taught me the value of things, and I'd recommend anyone contemplating a career in the game to begin in the same way.

It was in the summer of 1967, while working as a deckchair attendant on Skegness beach — partly to supplement my off season wage of £9 a week, and partly to get a sun tan — I received a telegram that was to dramatically change my life.

"Telephone club as soon as possible — Scunthorpe United," it read. Then I learnt the club had agreed terms for my transfer to Liverpool.

The following morning I journeyed there in our chairman's Rolls-Royce, to meet Liverpool's then manager, Bill Shankly, and to be shown around the club and Melwood, its training ground.

I was in a daze. It was like moving from a terraced house into a palace.

My first game was with the reserves, and I think we won 3-0. My over-riding impression was of playing in the Anfield stadium in a state of awe. It was difficult for me to take it all in.

Strangely enough, whereas I can

being an incredible 2-0 down at half-time at Anfield, to peg back three goals and win.

The second took place not at Anfield, but Molineux, the home of Wolves. It was the last match of the 1975-76 season and we had to win it to be certain of beating Q.P.R. to the Championship.

Thousands

Our fans virtually took over Molineux. It was jam-packed with thousands locked outside the gates.

Twenty minutes after the kick-off the first goal was scored. But not by a Reds player — by Wolves' Steve Kindon.

That setback failed to silence our fans, who continued to spur us on until we at last equalised 20 minutes into the second-half. We then went on to score two more goals to win the game — and the Championship — in fine style.

At the final whistle our fans burst

'Our fans took over Molineux'



WATFORD boss Graham Taylor has done his fair bit of spending in the last couple of seasons, but has also blooded some fine youngsters this term.

Teenagers Steve Terry, Ken Jackett and Nigel Callaghan have all played well at Second Division standard.

Taylor says: "The three of them have played together at Second Division level and, obviously, are inexperienced, but they will reap the benefit, and so will the club, from their senior excursions."

SNOOKER CRAZY

THE Poles of Widzew Lodz found a fascinating new attraction when they came to England to play Ipswich in a U.E.F.A. Cup tie . . . snooker!

It was being shown extensively on television during their stay — and they were riveted in front of the set watching it.

"We have never seen the game in Poland. And the sight of men with long, thin sticks knocking little coloured balls into pockets really fascinated them," said the team's interpreter.

EMLYN HUGHES completes his contract at the end of the season, and already he has informed Wolves manager, John Barnwell, that he is prepared to remain at Molineux for another season as a player.

The former England captain said: "I feel just great and I'm playing better than I did last season."

"What encourages me is that the side is now beginning to knit together and some of the young players are coming through."

"But I've got to have a quiet laugh to myself because I was playing in European Cup-ties when these lads were still at school!"

AUSSIE TRIALIST

BIRMINGHAM CITY have decided to give Greg King an extended trial. Nothing very startling in that fact, except that Greg has come all the way from New South Wales to try and win soccer fame.

His Australian club, Bankstown, paid his expenses for the trip and now it is up to Greg to prove himself.

He said: "This is my first time outside Australia and I'm hoping that I can succeed. I am fully aware that I'm most fortunate to have been given this opportunity and there is no doubt it will help me improve my play."

Comeback for goal-ace Pearson?

SCOTTISH clubs have not been slow to notice that Jim Pearson is regularly banging in goals for Alliance Premier League club Barrow.

Several have contacted the former Scottish Under-23 international who



scored 13 times in Barrow's first 20 games.

But there are several stumbling blocks to any plans to attract 27-year-old Pearson back into League football after a knee injury ended his career at Newcastle.

The main one is the question of compensation which was involved when specialists told Pearson to quit a year ago.

But even the player is not certain he wants to give up part-time football, which he combines with a job in insurance. "I'm enjoying life with Barrow and wonder whether it's worth giving up my new career for a few more years in full-time football, then find I've got to get started all over again once I retire."

"But I can't pretend I haven't thought about making a comeback, particularly now the goals are going in for Barrow. I can't help wondering if I might still be able to do it at a higher level."

Pearson, a former St Johnstone and Everton player, trains in the North East during the week before linking up with his Barrow team-mates at the weekend.

STEVE FOSTER'S TALENT

BRIGHTON manager Alan Mullery is busy banging the England drum for centre-half Steve Foster.

"If there is a better young centre-half around than Foster then I would like to see him," says Mullery. "This boy has so much talent. He is extremely good in the air and very mobile on the ground for a big fellow."

Portsmouth-born Foster had nearly five years with his local club before joining Brighton for £150,000 in June, 1979. He had previously had experience as a schoolboy player with Southampton.

"He used to be a centre-forward," added Mullery. "And it is his knowledge of having played as a striker which has helped him considerably as a defender."

But, strangely, honours haven't come easily for the powerfully-built 23-year-old. In season 1978-79 he was selected for an England Under-21 squad for a match against Holland in Maastricht but the weather forced it to be cancelled.

He then won his way into the England Under-21 squad last April and went on as substitute for Ipswich's Terry Butcher against East Germany at Jena.

His form for Brighton this season has been a revelation and England boss Ron Greenwood must surely be calling him up for further honours in the not too distant future.

GLENTORAN striker Gary Blackledge hit the first Irish League Championship "hat-trick" of 1980-81, when he netted a stunning treble in Glens' 7-1 away annihilation of Portadown, the club goal-happy Gary played for before his '78-79 transfer to the Oval.

HEARTS' new team captain is former Ranger Alex MacDonald. He's taken on the job from Jim Jefferies, who told manager Bobby Moncur that he thought it would be a good move to pass on the job to the midfield man. Certainly, Alex deserves the job as he's been the side's mainspring since coming to Tynecastle at the start of the season.

BRITAIN's first all-women supporters club has been founded — in the village of Clough, near Ballymena, Northern Ireland. But the lasses do not back Brian's Nottingham Forest — they follow Glasgow Rangers.

The girls got the idea of forming their own club — because their husbands and boyfriends, members of the village's long-established Rangers Supporters Club, would not let them join.

Membership is booming and the ladies have already made several trips to Ibrox and have raised more than £1,000 through raffles and other activities.

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



GUISBOROUGH went all the way to Wembley last season in the F.A. Vase. It was a fairytale run for a club formed only a few years ago. This season, though, there will be no more headline-glory for the Yorkshire side. Guisborough went down 1-0 to Tyneside team Whickham in the Third Round.

Irish rugby star's soccer debut



TONY WARD, the Irish Rugby international, has signed for Limerick United. Ward, who is an excellent place kicker with the oval ball, used to play for Shamrock Rovers before he decided to concentrate on Rugby Union. Now based in Limerick, he has signed for the reigning Champions, but says rugby will still be his priority.

Incidentally Limerick manager Dave Maheedy is also manager of Ward's sports shop in the city.

OLD BOYS REUNION

WHEN Allan Clarke settled back into his chair at Elland Road one of the first decisions he made was that he needed another of the Leeds United 'old boys' sitting alongside him.

The man he chose was Tony Collins who enjoys the reputation of being one of the best scouts in the business.

Collins spent three-and-a-half years

at Leeds during Don Revie's reign, but then rejoined Alan Dicks at Bristol City, taking the title of assistant manager.

During his time at Ashton Gate, Collins always retained his home in Rochdale, however, and no doubt he's delighted to be back at Leeds, with a somewhat shorter journey to the office.

One person Collins is delighted to be working with again is the Leeds United assistant manager Maurice Lindley. The two of them had a perfect working relationship and understanding during Leeds' halcyon days, and if Leeds are to work their way back to the top, Clarke will need all the expertise and harmony these two experienced men can muster.

Wealthy Brum

IT MAY have cost Birmingham City more than £1 million to get out of the Second Division and back into the top flight, but according to manager Jim Smith there is one area where the club is wealthy.

He told the City shareholders at the club's AGM: "We have the strongest depth of riches among young players since I became manager three years ago. You only have to look at the progress of one of our young players, Phil Hawker, to see that we have a remarkably talented bunch."

"He is one of the quality players we want at this club and it is heartening for me that he is a local boy as well."

Hawker came into the team for the match against Forest which Blues won. He took over from the injured Mark Dennis and the 17-year-old soon had people wondering if Dennis would get back into the side.

GLASGOW referee Kenny Hope is now using the coin issued to all officials in Red China when tossing up before kick-off. Instead of asking for heads or tails, bemused skippers are invited to name the side with black and gold spots — or the red side emblazoned with a dragon.

Briefly...

● The North Riding FA celebrate their centenary with a dinner-dance on February 5. Sir Harold Thompson, FA Chairman, and Ted Croker, secretary, have been invited.

● BIG-SPENDER Keith Burkinshaw certainly did a bargain-basement deal for Spurs when he plucked midfielder Graham Roberts out of non-League soccer. Roberts, who cost £30,000 from Weymouth in May, was given a chance to settle in

well at reserve level and has impressed with his displays in the first team.

Burkinshaw says of the 21-year-old from Southampton: "He can make things happen just like Steve Perryman. I think he'll prove a real winner."

● BRECHIN CITY have appointed goalkeeper John Ritchie player-coach and he will have special responsibility for the reserve team.

● HIBS have started off the New Year by offering five-year contracts to both their new manager, Bertie Auld, and his assistant, Pat

Quinn, who recently joined the Easter Road club from Partick Thistle.

● NIGEL SPINKS, Aston Villa's young reserve team goalkeeper, has been swimming back to fitness!

Spinks recently had an emergency appendicitis operation and this restricted his training.

He was advised to keep in trim with some swimming sessions and this assisted his recovery.

Spinks, however, is still very much in the shadow of Jimmy Rimmer, but he is rated a star of the future at Villa Park by manager Ron Saunders.

ROTHERHAM'S 'BIG TOP'



ROTHERHAM UNITED came up with a novel idea to try and beat soccer's notorious bad attendances on the last Saturday before Christmas by holding a circus show prior to their home game with Brentford at Millmoor.

Performing on the pitch were jugglers, flame eaters, acrobats, clowns, performing dogs — the lot — and to cap the day for Rotherham they took Brentford to the circus by beating them 4-1... who probably didn't see the funny side of it.

THE Phelan family are out to make a big impression at Burnley. Micky Phelan, an 18-year-old who can play as a sweeper, central defender or midfielder signed as a professional at Turf Moor in July after first going to the club as a 14-year-old. Now he has a younger brother at the club. He is a goalkeeper.

AFTER three seasons as manager of Meadowbank Thistle, Willie MacFarlane has left the club where he joined them — at the foot of the Scottish Second Division.

MacFarlane's contract expired only a week after Thistle knocked out neighbours Hibs in the Semi-Final of the East of Scotland Shield on penalty kicks. It was not renewed.

During his spell with Thistle, MacFarlane also saw them topple Hearts from the same competition.

Scottish football boost

AMATEUR football in Scotland has received a boost with a new sponsorship.

Together with the Scottish Amateur Football Association, Vladivar, the Warrington-based Vodka distillers, have put together a package designed to encourage goals and make the game more attractive.

Under the scheme, Vladivar are to inject cash to a number of regional and Cup competitions.

The Scottish Amateur, Ayrshire and Lothian Leagues will each receive £1,000 and two Cup competitions — the North of Scotland and Fife Cups — will benefit by the same amount.

A further £1,000 will be provided to enable the SAFA to stage the first-ever national 5-a-side competition at the end of the season. Cup winning sides from around the country will be invited to compete in the tournament; details of this event will be announced later in the season.

Scottish Amateur Football Association President, John Robertson says: "We are happy to welcome Vladivar to Scottish Amateur Football. Their financial support is most welcome and will boost the game in these areas. On the field, clubs will be rewarded for scoring goals which is bound to create more interest."

In the Vladivar Leagues, a 'Go for Goals' scheme will be introduced and the club, in each League, scoring the highest average number of goals per game in any month will be awarded a giant bottle of Vladivar.



Still striking

HAVING made a remarkable comeback last season after a knee injury, Mick Fairclough is the top scorer in the League of Ireland this season.

The former Huddersfield striker, now doing well with Dundalk, scored nine goals in as many League games and was a recent winner of the Player of the Month award.

Record-breaking Hector

KEVIN Hector, Derby's former England striker, set a new club record of 536 League appearances against West Ham at Upton Park on December 20th.

Hammers striker David Cross also reached a milestone that afternoon. It was his 150th first team game for West Ham.

The picture shows Hector with Ron Webster, whose record of 535 appearances he equalled against Watford.



WEST BROMWICH ALBION'S exciting young left back, Derek Statham, is still sidelined with a hamstring injury and having the most frustrating time of his career.

He says: "Injuries are an occupational hazard and you expect to be out with them from time to time. But this hamstring is terrible."

"When you know how long you are going to be out things aren't so bad. You are able to set your sights on a comeback date. However I can't, for the hamstring keeps recurring."

"I get to a stage when I am nearly fit and then when I try to extend myself by kicking the ball the niggling comes back again."

MORE FREE STICKERS NEXT WEEK

See page 39

Shirt grabber

ONE of Peter Bodak's treasured soccer possessions is a shirt he was given by Frank Worthington following the recent game between Coventry City and Birmingham City.

Bodak, one of the game's rising young stars, said: "I respect the man so much and for what he has done for soccer that I asked him for his match shirt."

The Coventry youngster, who supported Aston Villa while he was at a Birmingham school, believes in entertaining the fans and is always on the look out for goals.

He plays as a normal winger but likes to cut in, and this is where he has proved to be such a big danger for Coventry City this season as they have progressed into the Semi-Finals of the League Cup.

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NINETEEN EIGHTY wasn't a bad year for Football. It was almost a total disaster!

Hooliganism, falling gates, clubs in financial trouble, England's failure in the European Championship, a rise in the number of bookings and sendings-off and United's crippling toll of injuries.

But let's forget the past year. I've a hunch 1981 is going to be a vintage year for the game.

The New Year couldn't have got off to a better start than with the glamour and excitement of the F.A. Cup Third Round — and my comeback which kicked-off against Stoke City reserves at Old Trafford at Christmas.

I only played the first-half, but did enough to prove to reserve manager Jack Crompton that I was well and truly on my way to full recovery.

My next game was against Sheffield United reserves on Saturday December 27th before a crowd of some three or four thousand.

The fact Ray Wilkins and Garry Birtles were also in the side obviously attracted a higher gate than usual.

In fact, crowds of 15,000 aren't that uncommon for Central League matches, especially when Cup-tie tokens are being distributed.

Apart from helping me regain match fitness, playing for the

thing to fight for in 1981.

It could also see the breakthrough for several of our youngsters like Mike Duxbury and Scott McGarvey.

Garry Birtles will, I'm sure, prove to United fans just how good a striker he is. I'd also like Gary Bailey to win a full England cap and Arthur Albiston to be selected for Scotland. Then United could boast a team of 11 internationals.

When all our senior players are fully fit the competition for places is going to pose problems for Dave Sexton.



Ray Wilkins (above) and Garry Birtles (right) both played with Gordon for United reserves during December.



'1981 could be a vintage year'

reserves has made me appreciate the big time even more.

I hate being out of the first team for any length of time. It's a completely different world.

Having experienced the Central League I can understand players getting impatient and demanding moves when they are out of senior team action.

Let's hope the fans flock back to the terraces this year. Perhaps it's too much to expect in this age of unemployment and recession, but with the title race wide open and every one of the home nations and the Republic of Ireland involved in the World Cup some of the lost millions may well return.

England's 1966 triumph sparked off a boom period for soccer. Scotland's build up to 1974 renewed interest North of the border. This coming tournament may well mean another revival.

All the signs point to a bumper year. United certainly have every-

But that situation can only make the club stronger and better equipped to become the top team in the country.

True we slipped up over Christmas, with just one point from our three matches, but we are still in touch with the leaders.

Nothing is impossible in football. A few weeks ago few would have given much hope for Brighton's chances of staying in the First Division. Or Manchester City's.

But both have been going well over the past couple of months. It's surprising how quickly a few wins on the trot closes gaps.

United, Villa and Ipswich are all ready to take over from Liverpool if they make one slip.

So the next 12 months promises to be exciting for us and I hope everyone in the game.

This Saturday (January 17th), United travel to Roker Park, Sunderland.

I've only played at the famous

North-East ground once in my career, for Leeds. I can't remember the result, but I'll never forget the occasion.

The game was played in midweek under floodlights in the face of a blinding blizzard. I was so cold even my boots got frostbite!

This weekend's game promises to be a white hot encounter with United battling for both points to maintain our title chance, and Sunderland fighting to draw clear of the relegation zone.

Most teams leave Roker happy with a draw, but I know Dave Sexton will be disappointed if we don't get both.

United have been described as draw specialists this season — with 15 in the League up to the turn of the year — but I can assure you we play to WIN every game.

Before I close this week I thought you'd be interested in hearing about an incident that still sends shivers down my spine.

No one was above suspicion in the hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper — even me!

Before Christmas a woman telephoned the police claiming she had heard the Ripper's voice on a sports programme on Manchester local radio.

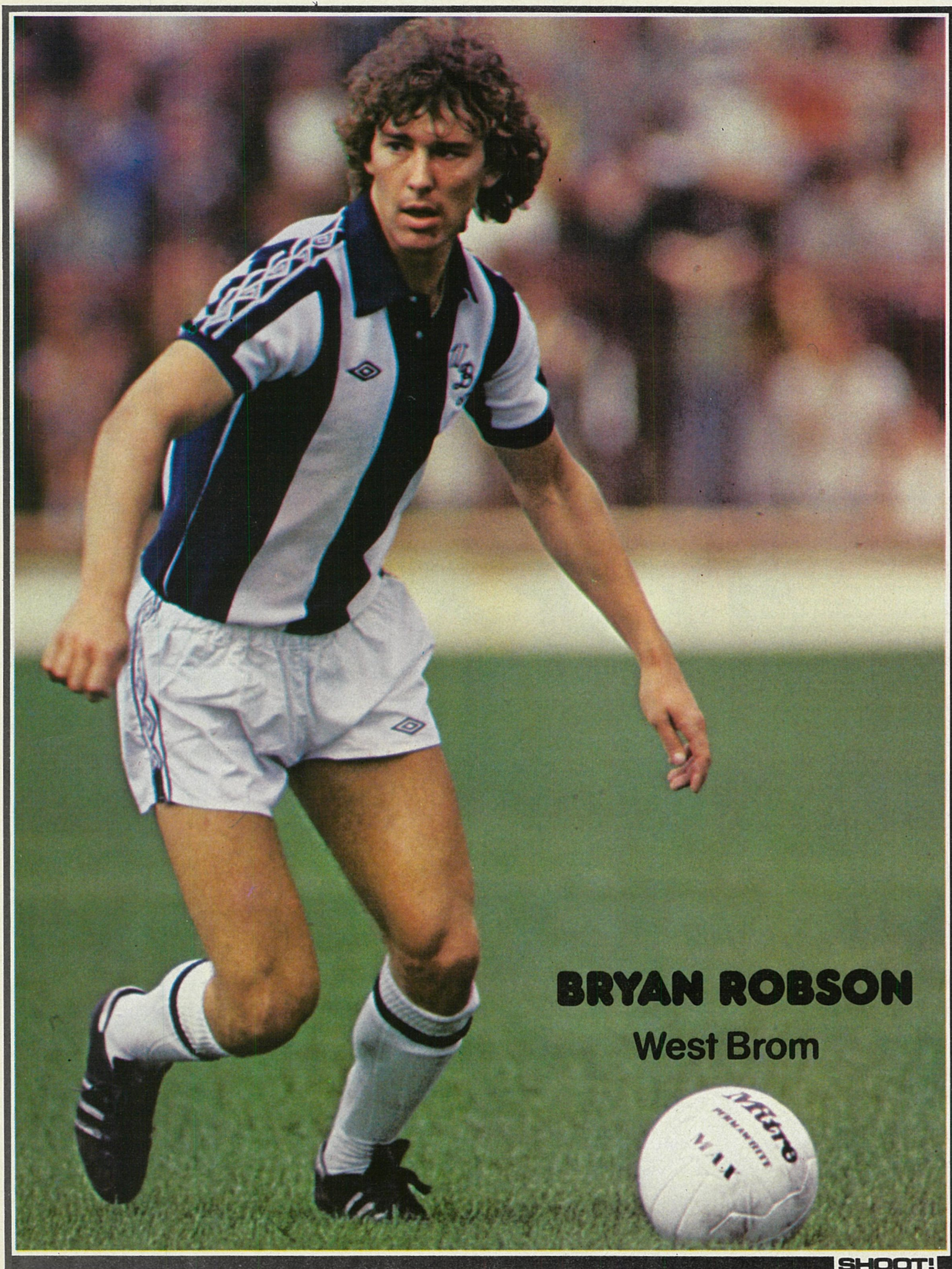
Police took the call seriously and Ripper squad detectives asked the station to play them a recording of the programme featuring me, Manchester City 'keeper Joe Corrigan and Oldham manager Jimmy Frizzell.

Naturally the police were satisfied none of us was the monster terrorising Leeds. We weren't even interviewed by the police, who were nevertheless grateful for the lady's co-operation and diligence.

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STAN'S TOP 20

STAN Cummins has a personal ambition. It is to play a complete season in the First Division without being left out of the side.

"When I was with Middlesbrough I never appeared in the first team consistently from August to May," says the Sunderland schemer.

"I was at Ayresome under two managers, and when Jack Charlton quit I had a difference of opinion with his successor, John Neal, plus some injury problems, which resulted in me being in and out of the line-up.

"Then after I was transferred to Sunderland last November I played Second Division football until we were promoted, and now I'm looking forward to an uninterrupted spell of soccer for the next few months.

"I told myself that in 1980-81 I would go all out to take part in every League match — and so far this season I've succeeded."

But while Cummins is satisfied with playing regularly, he is less happy with Sunderland's progress since their promotion.

"We hit a bad patch in November, though in spite of some set-backs away from home we felt that we had suffered some bad breaks, that the ball had run against us more than for us.

"But whether we had been unlucky or not, the fact was that we had dropped valuable points.

"Then to cap all this, we ran up against Liverpool in their very best form at Roker, when they demonstrated just why they are League Champions.

'Consoles'

"They certainly convinced me that nobody is going to stop them lifting the title again. But one thing consoles me when comparing the gap between Liverpool and us — their present side has taken about seven years to build up, whereas at Sunderland we are a young team trying to settle in the First Division.

"And in a way, you could say the honeymoon is over for us. We are now learning how demanding life can be in the top class. I think we proved during the early weeks of the season that we could play, that we have the capabilities to hold our own. But at this stage it's our character that is on trial.

"Fortunately, we've hung on to the belief in ourselves that took us into the First Division, but there is always the possibility that we could lose confidence in ourselves if we don't start obtaining some good results. This hasn't happened so far, but it could if we have another string of the wrong results

and find ourselves in the relegation zone."

A definite weakness in Sunderland's game has been their inability to seize scoring chances, and Stan is the first to admit that he has been a culprit in this respect.

He reflects: "I've had



Cummins has been disappointed with Sunderland's form, but here a better performance in a 2-2 draw at Highbury.

opportunities to put the ball in the back of the net, and squandered half of them. And as attacking and scoring is the part of my game I like best, I've been annoyed at the general level of my finishing.

"A combination of bad luck, near misses and off-target shooting in recent weeks has stopped me cashing in. And what has made it all the more frustrating is that my dry-up more or less coincided with a run which included only one win in eight matches.

"If only a couple of my efforts had gone in during this period it would have made a tremendous difference, and I've been trying not to let it get me down. At least I have been getting into scoring positions.

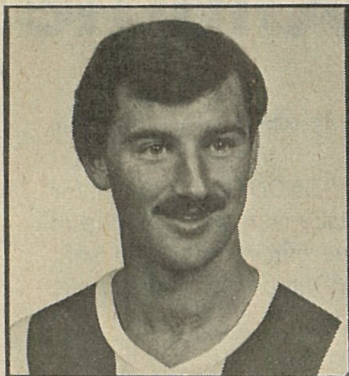
"And most important, I'm still setting myself a 20-goal target. I've been behind schedule with only a total of six goals up to the New Year, but I scored 12 goals from this stage last season when I moved to Roker — if I can do this again, and sneak an odd extra goal or two here and there, I'll achieve my target.

"Regular scoring, whether from me or anybody else in the Sunderland team, will help us to pick up the valuable points which could take us up the table."



MICKEY WALSH

Portugal's first English star



MICKEY Walsh first hit the headlines five years ago when, as a Blackpool player, his superb goal against Sunderland was chosen as BBC's Goal of the Season. He admits that had he not scored that goal, Everton wouldn't have signed him. Things didn't work out at Goodison Park and after just 20 League appearances he moved on to Q.P.R. It became obvious that he didn't figure in Tommy Docherty's plans and one of The Doc's last deals was to sell the Republic of Ireland striker to Portuguese club FC Porto, becoming the first English player (he was born in Lancashire) to be transferred to Portugal.

WHY EXACTLY DID YOU SIGN FOR FC PORTO?

I enjoyed playing in the English First and Second Divisions, but I was looking for a change. FC Porto offered me a very good contract and weighing everything up it was a most attractive deal. I wanted a different style of football... a different life... I was also tired of hearing everyone in England constantly knock football and looking for all the bad points of the game.

HAVE YOU HAD MANY COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS?

Luckily the manager, Hermann Stessl, speaks good English as do four or five team-mates, which has helped. We use diagrams in tactical talks and there is always an interpreter on hand just in case. I quickly began to understand what was going on as football is the same the world over.

DID YOU HAVE A WARM RECEPTION?

To tell the truth I was expecting some of the problems Kevin Keegan came across during his early days in Hamburg. I haven't found this, though. Everyone has been fantastic.

HOW HAVE YOU ADAPTED TO PORTUGUESE FOOTBALL?

I've been ineligible for the UEFA Cup and I picked up an early injury, which didn't help. In England football is so fast. Here, the midfield players are more involved, as opposed to seeing the ball knocked over their heads, while the pace of the game is slower. There is more emphasis on technique. Here, there is more opportunity to 'play' whereas back home you're closed down almost immediately.

WHAT'S THE STANDARD LIKE?

The top teams — Benfica, Sporting, Boavista and ourselves — are all good sides and would do well in the English First Division. However, a gap does exist between us and the rest.

HAVE YOU MADE A BIG IMPACT?

The injury slowed me down, yet I managed to score two goals in my first three games and one of these was chosen as a Goal of the Month on Portuguese T.V. This was particularly pleasing as I like to keep up my tradition of scoring spectacular televised goals!

DON'T YOU SEE MOVING FROM ENGLAND TO PORTUGAL AS A STEP DOWN?

I think FC Porto are a better club than Q.P.R. and the standard of football is higher. Besides, FC Porto are in Europe almost every season and this can only widen my knowledge of soccer.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTS?

I spoke to Eoin Hand before signing and he was very understanding. He played abroad, too, in South Africa. He said that if I was playing well enough I'd be called up and I have a release clause in my contract. I know it won't be easy as the Republic have their best-ever squad.

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF EVER RETURNING TO ENGLAND?

When my FC Porto contract expires I may stay on, or go to Spain or the USA. I like the idea of sampling different environments. After my playing career ends I want to go back to England to be a manager. Right now my aims are to help FC Porto win the League Championship, the Cup and UEFA Cup.

● Interview by Jose Alberto Fernandes.

Portuguese League action



'I'm no wonderboy'

says
DANNY WILSON

CCHESTERFIELD for promotion! The message rings loud and clear around Saltergate.

"The atmosphere amongst the players is terrific," says 21-year-old midfield star, Danny Wilson. "We all believe that we can make it this season after missing out by just one point last term."

"The spectators are starting to flock in now. They're magic and they're following the team to our long distance away games, so they're obviously in the same frame of mind as the players."

"We've a good squad with plenty in depth. There are 16 players here and they're all capable of slotting into the first team. We've ample experience, so you're always on your toes. Added to that, we each know exactly what the other is going to do."

Wilson, an Arthur Cox £150,000 pre-season signing from Bury, was on schoolboy forms at Sunderland before joining Wigan Athletic, his home town team, on a non-contract basis.

"I had a couple of good years at Springfield Park," he says. "Then I spent close on four seasons at Gigg Lane. I wasn't on the transfer list at Bury, although there had been plenty of speculation."

"I was told that different clubs were interested, but no one came in with a firm bid. It came as a complete surprise to me when I found out that I was on my way to Chesterfield."

"Personally, I feel that it's been a great move. I'm working under Frank Barlow now and he's the best coach I've ever had."

"He's also the manager and he's as straight as a die. If there's anything going on regarding transfer dealings and things of that nature, then he'll tell you. He's very honest and he never goes behind your back. I don't think you can ask for

anything more.

"When Arthur Cox left for Newcastle earlier on in the season, I think the board were undecided whether or not to bring in someone from outside."

"From a players point of view that would have been tragic because we all respected Frank. As it turned out, he got the job and it's been kept in the family, which is great."

"Frank hasn't brought in anybody new. He's promoted Billy Green, so nothing has been disrupted in any way and we've just carried on with the task in hand."

Wilson laughs at the terms "wonderboy" and "midfield dynamo".

'Assets'

"I know the newspapers have given me those tags," he says, "but I think my assets lie in my tackling and my quickness. I don't feel that my skill factor is any better than anyone else's at the club. I'm just tigerish and aggressive."

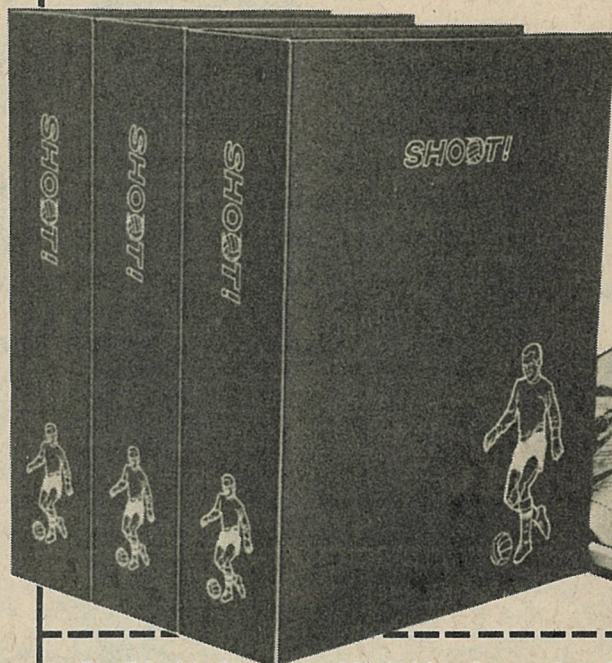
"At Chesterfield I'm the anchor man. I cover for Phil Bonnyman and Geoff Salmons, who push forward from midfield at every opportunity. It's marvellous when I manage to join the attack and knock one in, but that's a bit of a bonus and it doesn't happen very often."

"But back to promotion. We've played the likes of Huddersfield and Charlton, so they're out of the way."

"Nevertheless, there are a cluster of clubs all hovering for a top three spot. We've just got to keep on stringing our performances together and getting the results."

"The remaining matches are going to be hard, but I think we've got the class to take us through."

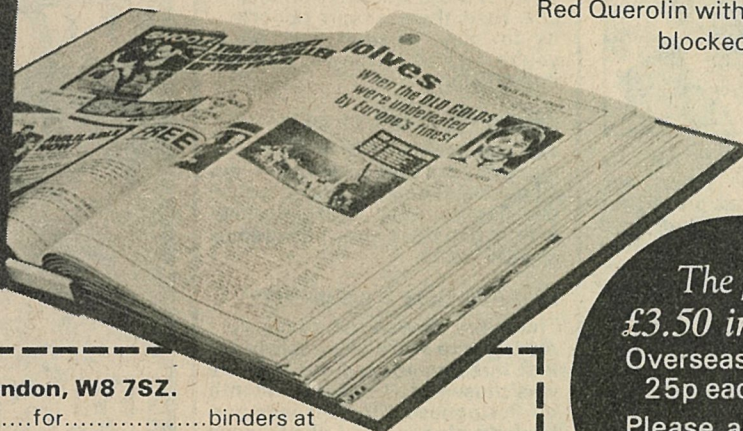
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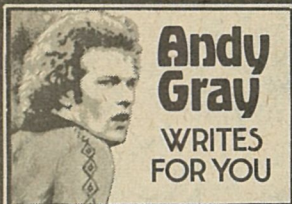
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Personal Callers Welcome



'BRITISH REFS NO LONGER THE BEST'

FOR many years I held the opinion that our referees were the best in the world. Now, I'm not so sure. In my experience of European and international football, I've found that while our top officials are still as good as any anywhere, the 'ordinary' refs at home are now no better than those elsewhere.

We have Jack Taylor on our commercial staff at Wolves and since his retirement a few years ago he's seen refereeing standards decline. I bet he'd admit that if you challenged him.

I used to enjoy playing when Jack was in charge. You could shout and swear at him and he'd shout and swear back, giving as good as he got, at least.

Our number one whistler now is Clive Thomas. I've played about ten times when Clive has been in charge and it's more than a coincidence that I've always played well. He lets the game flow and doesn't belittle the players. He treats us like men and doesn't abuse his authority.

If I'd had my way, I'd have

abolished the yellow and red card system long ago. It's been the main reason for the increase in cautions in recent seasons.

It's so easy for a referee to whip out his yellow card. Previously, a referee used to call the player over to him, bring out his note-book... and by the time that had happened as often as not everyone had calmed down and instead of a booking a few stern words did the trick.

Only the really severe tackles were punished, but now I see yellow cards being waved about left, right and centre. And once the card is out the ref can't change his mind, whereas he could put his note-pad away without actually writing a name on it.

I'm not saying players are angels. We aren't, and there is still much to be done to eliminate the wrong type of tackles from the game.

On the other hand, it depresses me to watch television and see fouls

that warrant red cards go unpunished, while the poor bloke who's been kicked is booked for complaining!

I've been booked a few times in my career for dissent and I can't say I'll NEVER talk back to a referee. It's part of my make-up to chat to an official, I become so deeply involved in a game.

Dissent is a word referees use to their own advantage and from a

penalty-points viewpoint, dissent is the worst offender.

I felt sorry for Emlyn Hughes when his caution for 'dissent' at Norwich took him over the 20-point mark. Our 'keeper had been kicked and Emlyn was only trying to draw the ref's attention to this.

Wolves fine their players if they're cautioned for dissent and on more than one occasion last season my wife Vanessa had her house-keeping money cut! Seriously, I've made every effort to keep out of the ref's way and I haven't been booked in the League this season.

I'd like to see the team captain given the power to talk to referees. If there is absolutely no communication between the two parties we're fighting a losing battle.

I've found foreign refs use the yellow card less for dissent (and don't tell me about language barriers — soccer is international). We've been too narrow-minded about Continental officials and haven't recognised the huge step forward they've made in refereeing standards.

More and more I've noticed opponents trying to stop a referee from booking a player. Sadly a handful still deliberately try to get the opposition into trouble, but it's a very small minority.

Relegation

This Saturday (January 17th) Wolves play at Crystal Palace in what is now a relegation battle. I can't see either Leicester or Palace pulling themselves out of trouble. Both would have to produce Championship-winning form for the remainder of the season and it's not on.

That leaves just one place going begging and I'd say it's between Wolves, Norwich, Sunderland and Brighton. It'll be a dog fight until the very end.

If someone had suggested even a few weeks ago that we'd be in relegation trouble I'd have laughed. Now it's very much a reality. I've never played in Division Two and I don't want to start now.

Mistakes that we made last season, when things were going well, are now being punished and our confidence has taken a knock.

My aim is to score as many goals as possible until the end of the season to ensure safety for Wolves... one or two at Selhurst Park would be handy.

Join me again in a fortnight,

Andy Gray

"Nottingham Forest's John Robertson is shown the yellow card for dissent in the recent League match against Ipswich at the City Ground."



ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

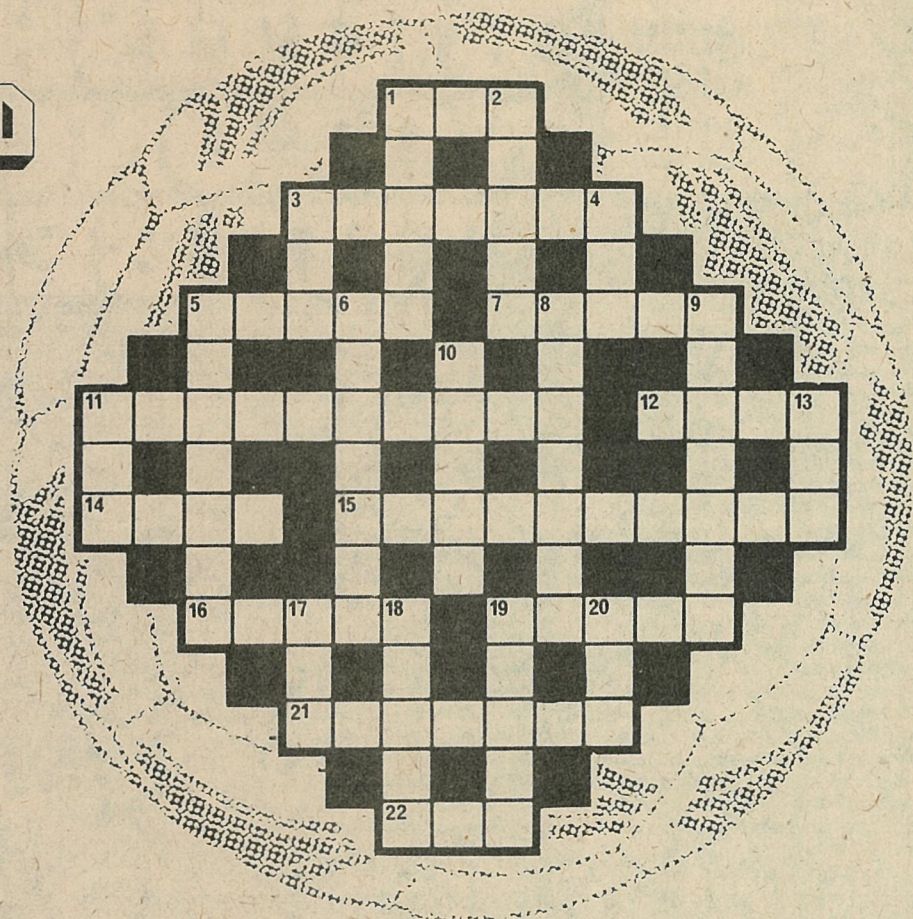
- (1) Light blow. (3)
 (3) Paul —, Ipswich striker (7).
 (5) Neil —, Brighton mid-field player. (5)
 (7) Heraldic device perhaps incorporated in a club emblem. (5)
 (11) English First Division club who won the F.A. Cup in 1936/37 & 1972/73. (10)
 (12) Alan —, Stoke City defender. (4)
 (14) Malcolm —, Birmingham City defender. (4)
 (15) Paul —, Stoke midfield player. (10)
 (16) — Park; ground of 11 Across. (5)
 (19) Take five letters from DONCASTER to make a word meaning "decorate". (5)
 (21) Mark —, Middlesbrough forward. (7)
 (22) Goodi--- Park, Everton's ground. (3)

(2) Sudden general alarm. (5)

- (3) Steve Dow ---; Wrexham centre-back. (3)
 (4) Glenn ---der; Q.P.R. defender. (3)
 (5) Bobby Robson of Ipswich, for instance. (7)
 (6) In short, the Scottish Premier Division club from Broomfield Park. (7)
 (8) One of the items a referee carries. (3 & 4)
 (9) Billy —, of St. Mirren and Scotland. (7)
 (10) Essential item for a referee to carry as well as 8 Down. (5)
 (11) If Morton, Raith & Ipswich give "RAW"; what do Leicester, Luton & Newport give? (3)
 (13) — Masson, Notts County player. (3)
 (17) Found at Anfield. (3)
 (18) Garth C---, Spurs striker. (5)
 (19) John —, member of Man. United's 1968 European Cup team (5)
 (20) Dean C---t Ground; Bournemouth. (3)

DOWN:—

- (1) Palpitare. (5)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 38

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'MY AIM~SPAIN'



Tartan Talk
DEREK
JOHNSTONE

A COUPLE of weeks ago I made a New Year resolution which I am determined to follow through. The resolution? Simple. I intend to play for Scotland in the World Cup Finals in Spain next year. We all know about the colossal

failure of the Scottish international team in Argentina in 1978, where there was as much talk about what was happening off the field as on it.

On a personal note, the Argentinian trip was a disaster for yours truly.

Before we went to Argentina we played three games in the British Championship and scored only two goals . . . both by me.

I scored with headers in the 1-1 draws with Northern Ireland and Wales, but was dropped for the game against England, which we lost 1-0.

I had hoped to have been given a run at some point against England because I was still getting used to the styles of players such as Bruce Rioch, Don Masson and Archie Gemmill. Alas, it was not to be, but I still hoped that I would be given an opportunity to show what I could do in the World Cup Finals.

I was on the substitutes' bench for the games against Peru, Iran and Holland, but never called on at any time by the former manager Ally MacLeod.

The trip was an interesting experience, but in reality was a complete waste of time as far as playing.

So you can understand why I am so keen to do so well in Spain next year.

Interesting

Where I am going to play in the team is an interesting thought. Mainly this season I have been playing in a central defensive position for Rangers.

If I am to get into the Scottish team in this role I certainly have some fierce competition.

Gordon McQueen, hopefully 100 per cent fit, Alan Hansen, Alex McLeish, Willie Miller and Kenny Burns immediately spring to mind as rivals for a place in the back-four.

If I revert back to my old position up front I have to compete with players such as Kenny Dalglish, Andy Gray, Ian Wallace, Joe Jordan and many others. And what about Steve Archibald?

He's playing superbly for Spurs

Steve Archibald, scoring regularly for Spurs this season.

and it's great to see him scoring so many goals.

Another two Scots who are doing well in England are John Wark and Alan Brazil at Ipswich.

Just before the turn of the year John had scored 23 goals in the League and Cups for the the Portman Road side, and form like that could make him a certainty to play for Scotland against Israel in Tel Aviv in the World Cup-tie on February 25th.

Meanwhile, on a domestic note I have just moved house. It is little things like this that can actually interfere with your form on the pitch. I am not using this as an excuse, but all the hassle of changing houses can get through to you.

By the way, I sold my former house in Renfrewshire to Partick Thistle full-back Dave McKinnon. And I hope it brings him as much luck as it has brought me.

On Saturday (January 17th) I am looking forward to playing against my former team-mate Alex MacDonald when we take on Hearts at Ibrox.

Doddy — as he is still known to everyone at Rangers — has been in great form since his bargain £30,000 transfer from Rangers earlier this season. And it is great to see him doing so well with his new club.

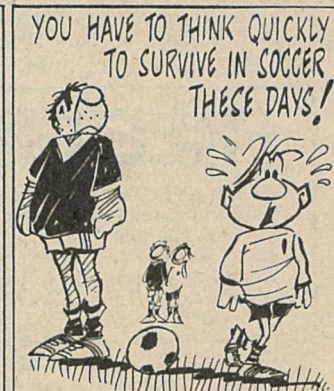
Earlier in the season he scored a superb goal against us at Ibrox but, thankfully, we were 3-0 up at the time. I'll also be looking forward to playing against other former Rangers such as Alfie Conn, Chris Robertson and Jimmy Denny.

Although Hearts are struggling to avoid a quick return to the First Division, they are sure to give us a tough time. Every point is vital to them now, but at the same time we can't afford to give any more away.

That's all for this week. See you in a fortnight.

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**

NOBBY



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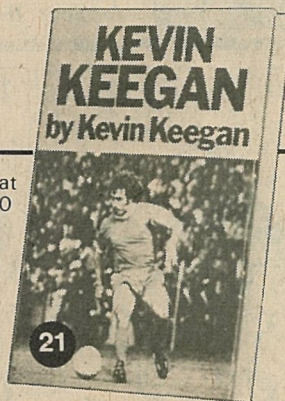
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SPORTSMAN'S BOOK CLUB

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

IT WAS a racing certainty that Southampton would make someone pay for their faltering start to the season after all the ballyhoo of Kevin Keegan leading them to the promised land in his first season on the South Coast.

The Championship charge the pundits predicted at the start of the season never materialised. They slunk out of the League Cup to lowly Watford and even their loyal band of supporters who press into The Dell every fortnight felt despondent after the club had tossed away a 4-0 first leg advantage.

Their fears were short-lived, for in a breathtaking spell over Christmas they cracked in 12 goals over three matches, taking five points out of six.

At that stage they had scored 33 goals in their 13 home games in

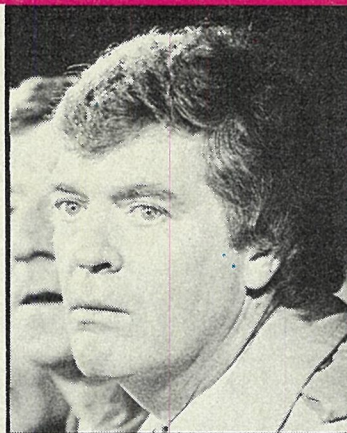
to combat Saints' household names only to be punished severely for ignoring their unknown quantities.

No player's form has impressed manager Lawrie McMenemy more this season than that of Steve Moran, six inches shorter than Channon but as sharp as a needle in the penalty-area.

Only 19, the Croydon-born youngster scored 12 goals in his first 13 games for Southampton this season, relying on speed and the sharpness of an electric eel to turn defences.

The compelling form of Saints' youngsters as much as Keegan's return after injury did most to provide the solid platform from which Southampton will launch their campaign in the second half of the season.

McMenemy paid 16-year-old



Manager Lawrie McMenemy

challenging heavily for a regular place if Dave Watson and Chris Nicholl lose form.

Agboola, born in Tottenham, London, of a Dorset mother and a Nigerian father, has impressed as a

sweeper behind Watson.

He has cut his teeth on a regular diet of reserve team football and the occasional first team outing.

"One swallow doesn't make a summer, but Reuben confirmed he is quick and sharp and positive when breaking from the back," says McMenemy.

He comes from the same London selection centre run by Saints which produced Steve Williams and Austin Hayes, and the manager can be justifiably proud of a youth system gaining in strength.

Fans dislike the departure of a hero, and Phil Boyer's £225,000 transfer to Manchester City was particularly unwelcome. Many of them retained memories of three home hat-tricks among Boyer's 26 goals last season in which he established a club record of scoring in 11 successive home games and was Saints top scorer for three seasons with 62 League and Cup goals.

Ivan Golac, Saints full-back and Boyer's friend, said "I'll miss him,

Hot-shot Saints

the League and were unbeaten in seven games after destroying struggling Leicester 4-0.

Perhaps more important than statistics, Saints are playing their football with the verve and spirit of the forward-lines that went on the rampage just after the War to clock up five and six goals a time.

In Kevin Keegan, Steve Williams, Mike Channon and Charlie George they have a star-studded quartet blessed with the finest skills in the game, players who rarely do the expected and therefore become difficult to predict.

The mistake some First Division defences have made is to lay plans

Danny Wallace, a former England schoolboy trialist, a vote of confidence by sending him out for a shock debut against Manchester United after Moran had been taken ill overnight. He had played only one Football Combination game before his Old Trafford match.

"The lad had excited me in training," McMenemy explained. "He lacks nothing in confidence."

Another find this season is Reuben Agboola, an 18-year-old central defender, who could be

Saints midfield star Steve Williams on the ball against Norwich earlier this season.

PAST HONOURS

Second Division: Runners-up, 1966, 1978.

Third Division South: Champions 1922, Runners-up 1921.

Third Division: Champions 1960.

F.A. Cup: Winners 1976. Runners-up 1900,

1902. Club shop: Situated in Milton Road,

and at Hanover Buildings in City Centre.

Last season's record. First Division: Eighth.

F.A. Cup: Third Round. League Cup: Third Round.

not only because we were friends but because Phil was the best finisher I've seen, so dangerous when he got a chance."

But the stunning form of Southampton's forward line this season and the progress of Moran has done much to cushion the blow of Boyer's departure.

Saints' off the field activities to combat their £954,000 loss announced at their annual meeting in December is gathering momentum.

Offset

The take from season tickets is up 66 per cent, and the sale of Boyer has done much to offset the deficit.

Southampton signed a three-year contract with Rank Xerox and kit manufacturers Patrick. The value of the contract is a closely guarded secret for reasons best known to the club and Rank, but the money accruing from that deal will be used in many ways for the club's benefit.

If Southampton ended 1980 running First Division defences ragged, no wonder their fans eagerly anticipate the months ahead with Keegan back in the team.

Liverpool, Villa, Ipswich and others in the Championship chasing pack above them will be wise to prepare for a late run on the rails by Southampton.

by BILL DAY



Kevin Keegan's return to League action spurred Southampton to 12 goals in three games, and now Saints are hoping to further strengthen their League position.

SOUTH A



BACK ROW (left to right): Chris Nicholl, Ivan Golac, Peter Wells, Terry Gennoe, Ivan Katalinic, Mike McCartney, Malcolm Waldron.

MIDDLE ROW: Lew Chatterley (trainer), Boyer (now Manchester City), Trevor Hebb.

AMPTON



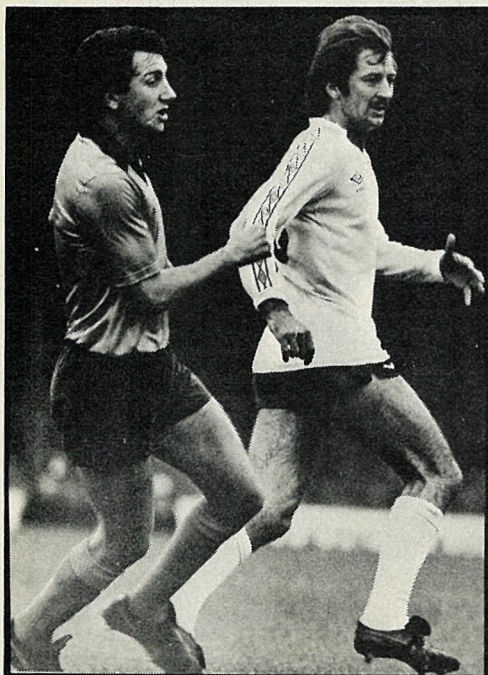
Steve Williams, Graham Baker, Phil
Mortimore (asst. manager).

FRONT ROW: Austin Hayes, Dave Watson, Nick Holmes, Lawrie
McMenemy (manager), Kevin Keegan, Mike Channon, Charlie George.

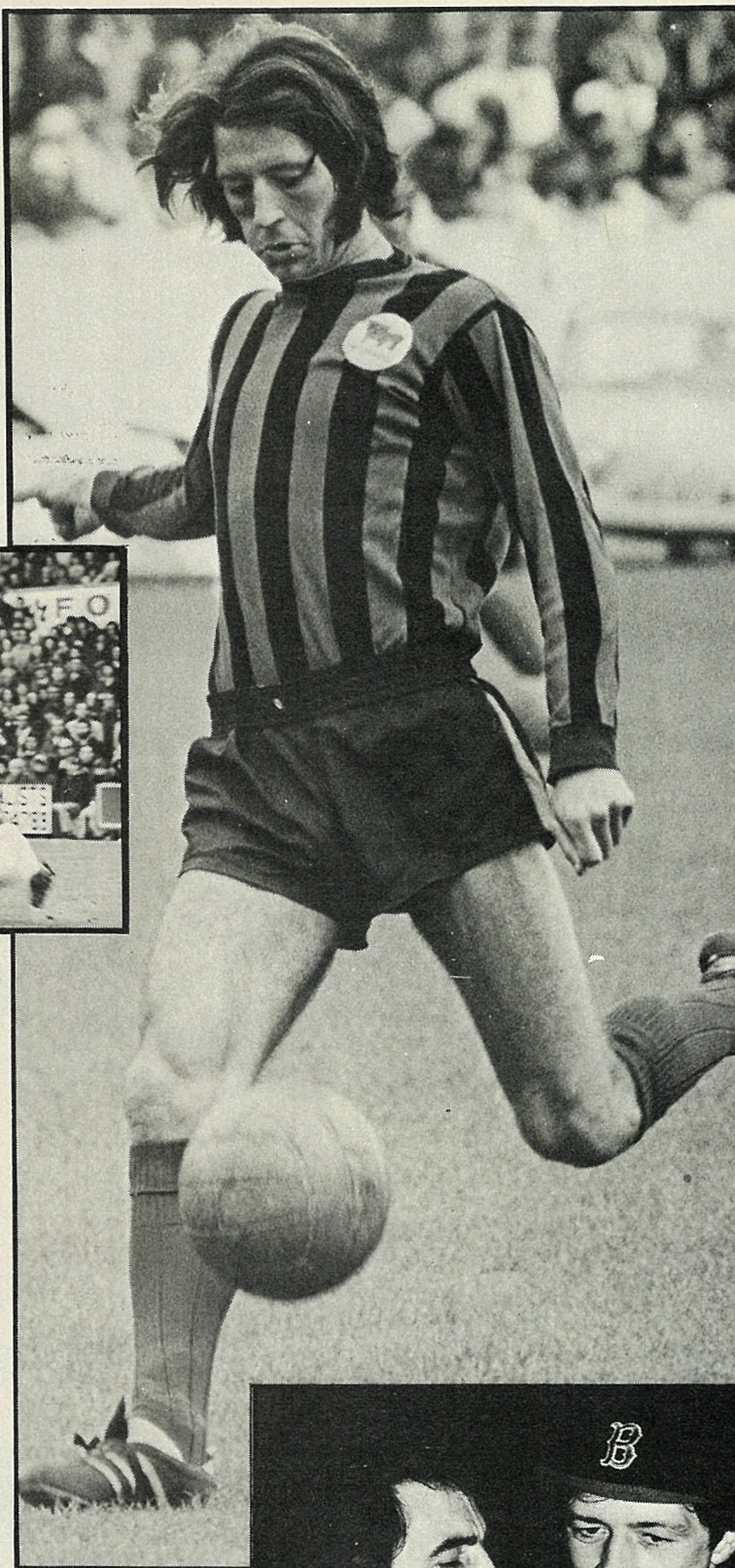
SHOOT!

STORY OF A STAR FRANK WORTHINGTON Birmingham City

One of the most colourful and controversial characters in today's game, Frank Worthington started at Huddersfield (far right). After a proposed move to Liverpool broke down, he signed for Leicester (right) and gained the first of eight England caps. His third was against Argentina, when he scored in a 2-2 draw at Wembley (below), in May, 1974.



After scoring 72 goals in 210 League games for Leicester, he joined Bolton for two seasons (left) before his latest move, to Birmingham City in December, 1979. The picture below shows his arrival at St Andrews, where he was met by his Blues team-mate Tony Towers.



Away from the game, Frank leads a hectic life. A great fan of Elvis Presley, he has also sung on stage and on record with local rock singer Steve Gibbons (above). Frank insists he will be signing for an American club at the end of the season, and he will be sorely missed if he goes.

MARTIN Dobson is a player who has done just about everything for Burnley. He joined them as a free transfer and made the club a record £300,000 richer when he moved to Everton: now he is back again at Turf Moor as an inspiring skipper in the club's promotion challenge.

Never in their Football League membership — and they were one of the founders in 1888 — had Burnley tasted Third Division football until this season. Dobson makes it plain that the flavour is not one which is going to linger.

"I honestly believe that we are good enough to get out at the first try. Frankly, we do not want to adjust our standards and

Full-back Brian Laws is responding in exactly the same spirited manner. "He is 18 as well and his only sight of first team football before this season came in the final match of last season — when we lost 4-0 to Watford and departed from the Second Division," says Dobson. "Now he is improving with every match and is a regular.

"Up front, we have another outstanding teenager: Phil Cavener. He plays wide to Billy Hamilton and Steve Taylor and is showing some exciting attacking ideas.

"We have just the right blend for a side looking for promotion. On one hand there are players like

BURNLEY-DOBSON'S CHOICE

traditions to the Third Division."

If they succeed, it will largely be because of the managerial example of Brian Miller and the astute captaincy of Dobson, now playing alongside the centre-half for the first time in his distinguished career.

"I returned to Burnley as a forward and then went into midfield but, at the start of the season, it was obvious that changes had to be made. We played in the Anglo-Scottish Cup and were conceding goals. The manager had to reshape the entire defence.

"He asked me to play with Vince Overson, an 18-year-old, at the heart of our back four. It was where my experience was needed most and I quickly agreed. Now I'm enjoying it and it is a real advantage to have all the game in front of me.

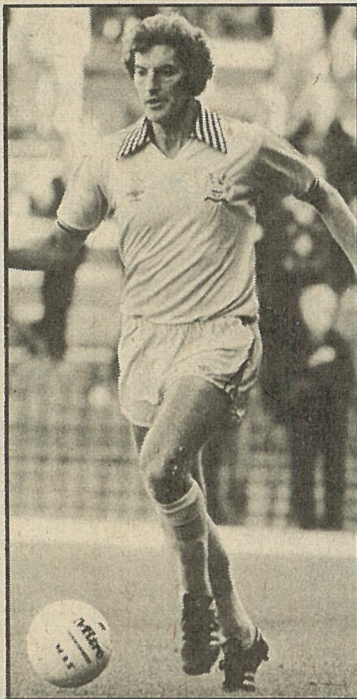
'Authority'

"I don't like to criticise other players, but I accept that a captain of my experience must use his authority to instruct and organise.

"These Burnley players want to make progress; they want the club back in the Second Division without wasting a week longer than necessary in the Third — and they take on the chin anything I have to say. But I never leave anything hanging in the air.

"If I've had cause to 'go' for a player, I make a point of praising him to the skies the moment he gets himself right again. Young players take things to heart, and it is important to pick them up if they've had a bad patch."

Overson is one of the new generation of Burnley players responding enthusiastically to the leadership of Dobson. He looks one of the finest teenage central defenders in the country and is thriving from the confidence that a partnership with Dobson has brought to his game.



Alan Stevenson, Derek Scott and myself; on the other our youngsters. In between, we have players of the right background and attitudes.

"There have been too many 0-0 draws during the first half of the season, but at least we are getting players in the right positions to score. Certainly there is no way that we are defensive and Brian has given me a free role to break out of defence whenever I see the chance."

Martin capped five times by England during his elegant years at Burnley and Everton in the early and mid 1970's, insists: "I don't think that much is going to change in the Third. The teams at the top now will be the ones there at the finish... and we aim to be among them!"

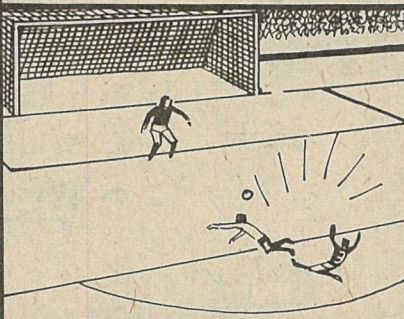


YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1

A defender trips an opponent inside the penalty-arc. Should you award (a) a penalty, (b) an indirect free-kick or (c) a direct free-kick?



2

A goalkeeper, on receiving the ball from behind his goal-area, wastes time before placing it on the six-yard line. Should you (a) caution the goalkeeper or (b) take no action?



3

A player's shorts rip when he kicks the ball. Should you (a) stop play or (b) allow him to replace them while play proceeds?



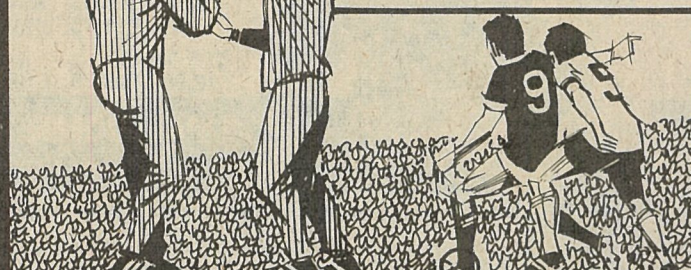
4

At half-time a player shows dissent against you. Should you (a) caution him, (b) send him off, or (c) take no action?



5

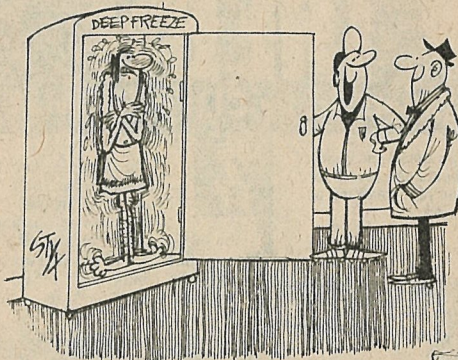
While play is going on you notice two opposing trainers fighting off the pitch. Should you (a) take no action, (b) stop play and caution the trainers, or (c) dismiss them both?



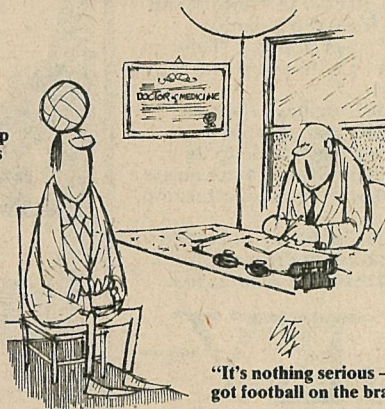
ANSWERS

1. A direct free-kick (c). 2. Caution the player (a). At the match between Birmingham and Leicester, Leicester were leading 2-1 and the result was going to be the shock of the day. I had warned Mark Wallington, goalkeeper of Leicester, in the first-half for not taking goal-kicks quicker. At half-time I again spoke to Mark outside his dressing-room. Then with ten minutes to go the Birmingham ball boy behind the goal threw the ball to Mark. Mark deliberately let the ball hit his chest and bounce away from him, just to waste time. I had no choice but to book him. 3. Allow him to replace them while play proceeds (b). 4. Caution him (a). 5. Dismiss them both (c).

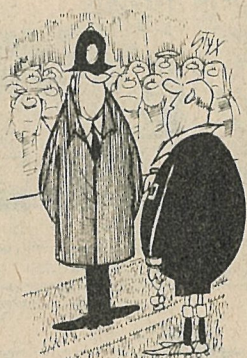
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"I'm toughening up the 'keeper for this afternoon's Arctic conditions."



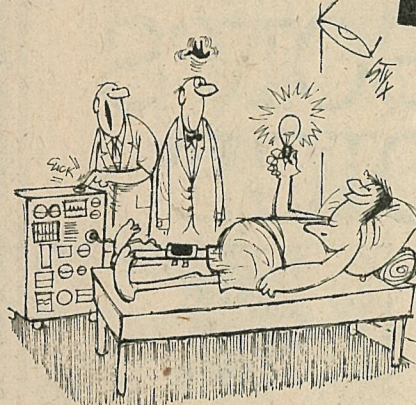
"It's nothing serious — you've got football on the brain."



"What's the time?"

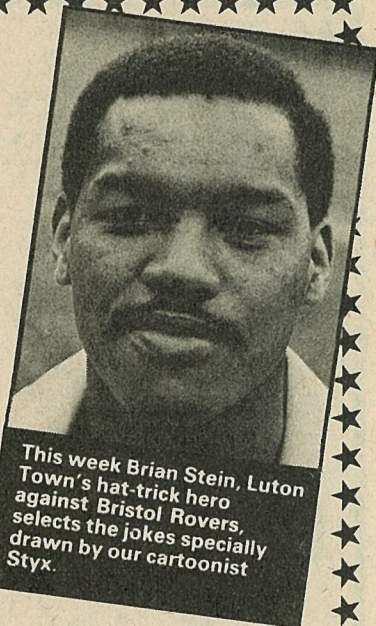


"Typical. They clear the pitch of snow and pile it around the touchline."



"See what I mean, boss?"

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This week Brian Stein, Luton Town's hat-trick hero against Bristol Rovers, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



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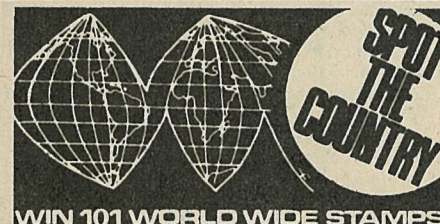
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Gary Shaw (white shirt) tests the Nottingham Forest defence at the City Ground.

'SHAW ANOTHER ALLAN CLARKE'

ANOTHER Allan Clarke ... that's how I feel about Aston Villa's Gary Shaw after being on the receiving end of his striking talents.

I'm reluctant to go overboard about young players because so many things can happen to prevent a promising career reaching fulfilment.

But from what I've seen of Shaw he really does seem to have the class that can take him all the way to the top.

I feel he has the style, the same kind of qualities that made Clarke such a superb finisher with Leicester, Leeds and England.

They used to call Allan 'Sniffer' because of his knack of smelling a

goal chance, and Shaw is out of the same mould.

He impressed me last season when he scored against us at the City Ground. The speed with which he weighed up the situation and struck the ball left a big impression in my mind.

And his performance for Villa against Forest just after Christmas confirmed that he has continued to make progress. He beat me twice and although one effort was disallowed for offside, the calibre of his finishing was right out of the top draw.

If there is a slight weakness in Gary's game I understand that he tends to 'disappear' from the action a little, but everytime he is

involved there is no doubting his pedigree.

I've also been impressed with his manner on and off the field. During a match, he'll take all the knocks that strikers expect without the slightest hint of complaint.

And away from the action I've seen him being interviewed on television and he has shown remarkable maturity for someone so young.

I'm sure Gary will keep his feet on the floor. And although I am always loath to tip a young player for England honours, it's a pretty safe bet that if he continues on his current course then international recognition will come his way in the near future.



'Welcome back, Trevor'

WHAT a tremendous lift it's given us at Nottingham Forest to have Trevor Francis back to full fitness.

His sheer presence in the side has such an influence on the other players that we are now fancying ourselves again as Championship contenders.

Trevor has given everyone fresh confidence because he has made such a remarkable recovery.

He's come back as possibly an even better player than he was before and immediately started creating and scoring goals.

There is no substitute for genuine skills and the benefits to be had from having a world class player back in your side after so long are enormous.

Trevor's attitude throughout his recovery has been a lesson to everyone in the game.

But it was nice to see the way his actual return to the first team was handled by Brian Clough.

Pressure

Trevor made his comeback in the European Super Cup match in Valencia and as we sat in the dressing-room waiting to go out, the boss took away a lot of the pressure that must have been building up inside Trevor.

All he said was: "I don't want you to do anything but get through the 90 minutes." That immediately put Trevor's mind at ease and he went out to enjoy himself.

Because he has done so much weight training during his fight for fitness, he is much stronger than he was before and is able to take the physical punishments that come his way.

When he first came to Forest, people thought he had everything but I recall a conversation in which I said his game was bound to improve under our management.

During his early days he was played out of position in midfield. I don't think he cared for it too much but it is all part of his education and now he is appreciating what I meant.

THE Rangers fans roared him on, the Spurs fans idolised him, the Celtic fans had their special chant for him and the Hearts fans welcomed him to Tynecastle with open arms.

Alfie Conn, soccer wanderer, is the player who has always conjured up that extra special charisma... the talented, exciting raider who has brought in fans wherever he has travelled.

Alas, Alfie, once a young contender for a place in Football's Hall of Fame, has often flattered to deceive. He hasn't produced the goods on the grand scale that was once expected of him.

"He is one of the best players I have ever faced," says Morton right-back Davie Hayes. "He has got so much talent and skill, but sometimes he tends to drift out of things. It's strange, because he could be such a brilliant player."

Other players echo those words. Everyone agrees Alfie Conn has been blessed with astonishing powers, but, at the same time, he is finding it difficult to get a permanent first team place in a struggling Hearts side that could well drop back into the First Division at the end of the season.

A decade ago a young Conn emerged on the scene and dazzled with his individuality and mesmerising talents. He was tipped to go all the way to the very top.

Today, though, presents a different story. While people might have been forgiven for thinking in the past that Alfie Conn would now be a regular in the Scottish international side and looking

The crunch for Conn

forward to another World Cup series, the player, bedeviled by injuries and ill-luck, is still trying to put his game together.

This season was always going to be the crunch one for Conn. It was going to be the mammoth hurdle he would have to take in style.

Freed two seasons ago by Celtic, Alfie's confidence was at its lowest ebb. There was no rush of clubs to sign the player who cost Celtic's former boss Jock Stein £65,000 when he signed from Spurs.

Cavalier

That fee was half what the London club paid out for cavalier Conn from Rangers eight years ago after he had starred in the Ibrox side's memorable European Cup-Winners' Cup triumph over Moscow Dynamo in Barcelona.

Now the circle has been completed. Alfie is back at the beginning still trying to prove to everyone that he can last the pace and get to the top.

He is in grave danger of dropping into no-man's land if he doesn't parade those flashing skills with the Tynecastle team

this season. The pressure is on and the strain is telling in his play.

Conn, ironically, came on as a substitute twice in games this season against his former Old Firm team-mates of Celtic and Rangers and he was barracked cruelly by the fans who once sang his praises.

Scottish soccer craves personality players. These individualistic characters are the sort who entice the fans away from their cosy armchairs on a Saturday afternoon to stand on cold, wintry terracings to cheer on their favourites.

What a shame it would be if Alfie Conn, undoubtedly one of the most skilled players in the Premier Division, should fail to fulfil the promise of ten years ago.

Alfie's father was a member of the famous Hearts side of the 50's which established themselves as Edinburgh's top team. Now Alfie faces a desperate battle to prove that he can help the club keep that title by retaining a Premier Division status which is becoming more endangered every week by continuing poor results.

It's not too late yet, Alfie...



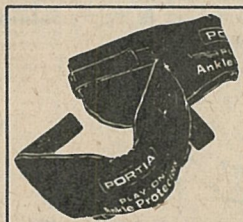
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This week's Star Letter comes from Jeremy Longhurst from Tonbridge Wells, who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

KEEP WAGES HIGH

★ I was surprised to read that the normally sensible John Bond suggests a maximum wage for professional footballers.

Surely with players earning less money, more top professionals would seek security abroad. It would also make it even harder to attract top foreigners to the Football League.

If Britain is to keep its best players, wages should be comparable to those of the European players. If John Bond is worried about the lack of money in the game, he should concentrate on devising ways to attract larger crowds back through the turnstiles rather than advocating artificial limits which would do more harm than good.

In any case, footballers are supposed to be entertainers — the same as film stars. I can't see film stars accepting a wage limit, so why should footballers be expected to?

● It seems very unlikely that the PFA will agree to a cut in wages, and the chances of John Bond's proposals gaining acceptance are remote.

The year of the Scot

IN your Christmas issue you wrote of the 1967 Celtic team, saying 'What a team!' Yet the report went on to make an omission peculiar to every Sassenach sports writer.

For in addition to winning every honour you mentioned, Celtic became the first club to win the European Cup with



a one-nationality team — every player being a Scot (above)!

In fact, the Scots really went to town in 1967.

World Champions England were beaten just once — by Scotland. Rangers were Cup-Winners' Cup Finalists. League Champions Manchester United were managed by a Scot, Sir Matt Busby, and skippered by Denis Law.

Captain Dave Mackay took the F.A. Cup for Spurs and Billy Bremner led Leeds to the Fairs Cup Final!

What would soccer do without us?

ANDY MILLAR,
MIDDLESBROUGH.

● I agree. The game in England would be poorer without our Jocks.

Don't knock 'Boro

ONCE again SHOOT have proved unable to refrain from having a dig at Middlesbrough.

Every couple of weeks you come out with snide remarks like 'Middlesbrough have at last shaken off that boring tag', or as in the Christmas issue, 'Middlesbrough are at last winning congratulations for actually entertaining people'.

I would like to take this opportunity of informing SHOOT on behalf of a lot of Boro fans that we have slowly but surely gained praise from the majority of the British Press for some time now, in fact since the early days of John Neal's reign.

I hope this time you have given your final seal of approval to Boro's performances, and will not continue to ram this 'new' information down our throats.

MICHAEL McGEARY,
MIDDLESBROUGH.

● If that's how you react to praise, how on earth did you get by when Middlesbrough were rightly labelled as boring?

Up and under Clem

IT struck me that goalkeepers would make very good full-backs in Rugby Union, because they can catch, punt and drop-kick well.

I am sure there have been a few players who have done this ... although it is difficult to picture Ray Clemence in the white shirt of England burrowing into a ruck.

I would think that Pat Jennings would make a rather good full-back, though.

TIMOTHY SKIPPER,
ELLESMERE.

Johan Cruyff and other international stars to win this award.

Well done, Tom O'Hara, you have done Scotland proud in America!

GARRIE PARKER,
KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

● Many of the lesser known British stars have made a greater impact across the Atlantic than their more famous counterparts.

Ridiculous transfers

ISN'T it about time that all clubs realised that the £1 million transfer deals have not benefited the game one iota?

At least some clubs have had the good sense not to be drawn into stupid high-price transfer deals.

It seems ridiculous that a £1 million plus player like Steve Daley (below) of Manchester City is now worth only £400,000 12 months later.

Surely it is time that the Football League put a ceiling on transfer deals, scaled down from Division One to Division Four.

In these times of high unemployment, the Football League could 'freeze' transfer fees whereby no player could be sold for more than £300,000.

If we get the ludicrous situation where Justin Fashanu is transferred for £2 million every club will raise their asking prices accordingly, using Fashanu as a ridiculous yardstick.

JOHN DUFFIN,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

● I agree that no player is worth £2 million. A more realistic transfer limit would be £600,000, as on the Continent



Pen-pal

I'M a collector of photos and would like to exchange with fans from all over the world. Please write in English.

J. DOST,
WESTENESSERSTRAAT 134,
7811 AX EMMEN,
HOLLAND.

Thanks, Jimmy

I'D like to wish Jimmy Greenhoff all the best with his new club, Crewe, and as a Manchester United fan thank him for four great years at Old Trafford.

The supporters of Crewe and other Fourth Division clubs will now be able to see one of Britain's finest uncapped players ... a man who is a credit to his profession.

JOHN HUNTER,
LONDONDERRY.

● A year ago it seemed as if Jimmy's career was over. Now he is starting a new one — and when he does finally quit as a player I believe he has much to offer as a coach or manager.

ASK THE EXPERT

Send your letters to: Ask the Expert, SHOOT! King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £2 for every letter published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. When writing, please state size: small, medium or large. While every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

Berwick in Scotland

As Berwick is in England, why do Berwick Rangers play in the Scottish League?

NIGEL ASHLEY,
BOLTON

● Good question, Nigel — but here's the club's equally good answer to it!

Although, strictly in geographical terms, the people of Berwick are English ... by ancient and historic tradition the "call" of Scotland from over the border, just three miles away, has always been strong.

So, after this old club (founded in 1881) had played for a number of years in the Northumberland and Border Leagues, in 1905 they joined the East of Scotland F.A.

One thing gradually led to another, and by 1951 Berwick Rangers were a Scottish League club.

Which, when you look at the map, makes sense. Just imagine the travel-costs for a none-too-wealthy club of playing away English football down at somewhere like Plymouth or Exeter.

England defeat

What was the England team which crashed 6-3 to Hungary in that sensational game at Wembley in November, 1953?

ANTHONY MANN,
BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

● A pretty useful-looking one, in fact, Anthony — though not nearly good enough to take on the 'Mighty Magyars' of that time.

This was how England lined up — Gil Merrick; Alf Ramsey, Bill Eckersley; Billy Wright, Harry Johnston, Jimmy Dickinson; Stan Matthews, Ernie Taylor, Stan Mortensen, Jackie Sewell, and George Robb.

You'll notice the name of Ramsey in that team — and he said later that the horrific memories of that massacre (and an even worse 7-1 drubbing in Budapest six months later) played a big part in his successful planning to lead England to World Cup triumph in 1966.

SHORT PASSES

● Walsall beat Arsenal 2-0 in the F.A. Cup Third Round in January, 1933.

(TARAS KRASZEWSKYJ, Gloucestershire)

● Ipswich's Terry Butcher was born in your own home city — Singapore.

(CHAN YEW MUN, Singapore)

● England's first-ever international — also the first world wide — was a 0-0 draw with Scotland in Glasgow on 30th November, 1872.

(NICKY BAKER, Cumbria)

● West Ham have won the F.A. Cup three times — beating Preston 3-2 in 1964, Fulham 2-0 in 1975, and Arsenal 1-0 in 1980.

(ELIJAH OJO, Nigeria)

POMPEY'S PROGRESS

PORTSMOUTH goalkeeper and skipper Peter Mellor is convinced that the recent arrivals of Bob Doyle from Blackpool and Billy Rafferty from Newcastle to Fratton Park will give Pompey the extra blend they need to clinch promotion to the Second Division.

"We've found a big gap between the Fourth and Third Division which is why it was necessary to buy some established players to fill our weak spots.

"Bob is already a proven player, while Billy is the sort we need in the Third Division to score goals.

"I don't accept that we'd gone off the boil before they signed," Mellor commented. "After all, the only side to have really outplayed us in the League was Brentford.

"However, I do think that in some cases we were flattered by results. By that, I mean that although nobody could be faulted for lack of effort there were times when we weren't functioning to the best of our ability in midfield and it was a case of individuals playing above themselves.

"But," Mellor added, "once our new additions have settled and we're firing on all cylinders we should be a good team."

From what he saw in the first half of the season Mellor feels that the standard in the Third Division is very high.

"It's one of those seasons when

there's not an awful lot to choose between most of the teams, although Charlton showed the sort of form just before Christmas to suggest they'll be strong contenders for promotion."

Mellor, who has now played in all four Divisions of the League (he last played in the Third Division in his Hereford days) has no doubt that Portsmouth will progress to the First Division — sooner rather than later.

He attributes much of their recent recovery to the positive thinking which manager Frank Burrows has instilled into the players.

'Achieved'

"His outlook is that players must be successful all the time, so that at the end of the day they can reflect on what they've achieved rather than merely being able to count the number of first team appearances they've made.

"Since he got things going here with Stan Harland and Youth team manager Jack Smith we've started getting some very good youngsters coming through."

Their efforts have already produced results as Peter Ellis and Keith Viney have both graduated through the youth team and several more are on the fringe of a first team place — including a promising goalkeeper Alan Knight.



Peter Mellor

While Mellor admitted to being disappointed at Portsmouth's First Round defeat in the F.A. Cup by Colchester, the early League Cup run — when Portsmouth accounted for Oldham and Bristol Rovers before being knocked out by Liverpool — remains the highlight of the season so far.

"Our fans were magnificent at Anfield," Mellor recalled, "and I

reckon they made more noise than the crowd when I played for Fulham in the F.A. Cup Final."

At 33 (and proud still to be playing) Mellor, who is now on the PFA Management Committee, clearly has his eyes on a job in management, although he has no intention of hanging up his boots in the foreseeable future.

"I was offered two jobs in management before coming to Portsmouth but turned them down because I saw the tremendous potential here. A number of people, including the boss, advised me to continue playing for as long as possible, which is what I intend doing. But I shan't be happy until First Division football has returned to Fratton Park," Mellor stressed.

Because the nucleus of the current team have now been together for three years Mellor is adamant that Portsmouth will not repeat last year and almost 'blow' their promotion hopes after threatening to take the Fourth Division by storm.

"I'm sure we couldn't let it happen again, as the boss is certain to take action once the warning lights start to flash rather than just letting things rest.

"Everything's geared for the First Division — we're averaging gates of 15,000 at the moment and we owe it to the fans to get back to the top."

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

ALLY MacLEOD insists firmly and strongly that the Argentina World Cup flop in 1978 is now history and a closed chapter in his life.

He has said in the past and he still says today: "I am the manager of Motherwell FC these days. They are my main concern ... not the happenings of the past."

MacLeod has been haunted by the nosedive in fortunes over the past two and a half years and, no matter where he goes, he hears the sneers of rival fans, swift to blame him entirely for Scotland's failure to make an impact in South America.

The former Hibs, Blackburn Rovers, St. Mirren, Third Lanark and Ayr man shows remarkable tolerance to such criticism and stresses that rebuilding Motherwell is the only job that matters to him at the moment.

Looking at his promotion-chasing First Division side, MacLeod has been quick to praise the efforts of former Celtic, Chelsea and Scotland midfield powerhouse David Hay, his assistant at Fir Park.

"I'm the one who lets off steam," says ebullient Ally. "I can jump about in the dug-out while David sits through everything very quietly and calmly."

"I'm Mr. Bad to the players while

he's Mr. Nice. I think we complement each other."

MacLeod went on record last season as saying his club were the best in the First Division, but again his critics had a go at him when his club failed to clinch promotion, with Hearts and Airdrie climbing into the Top Ten.

The former Scots supremo wasn't that far off the mark, actually. His side got off to a woeful start, dropped points all over the place, but, in the end, they came like an express train and narrowly missed promotion.

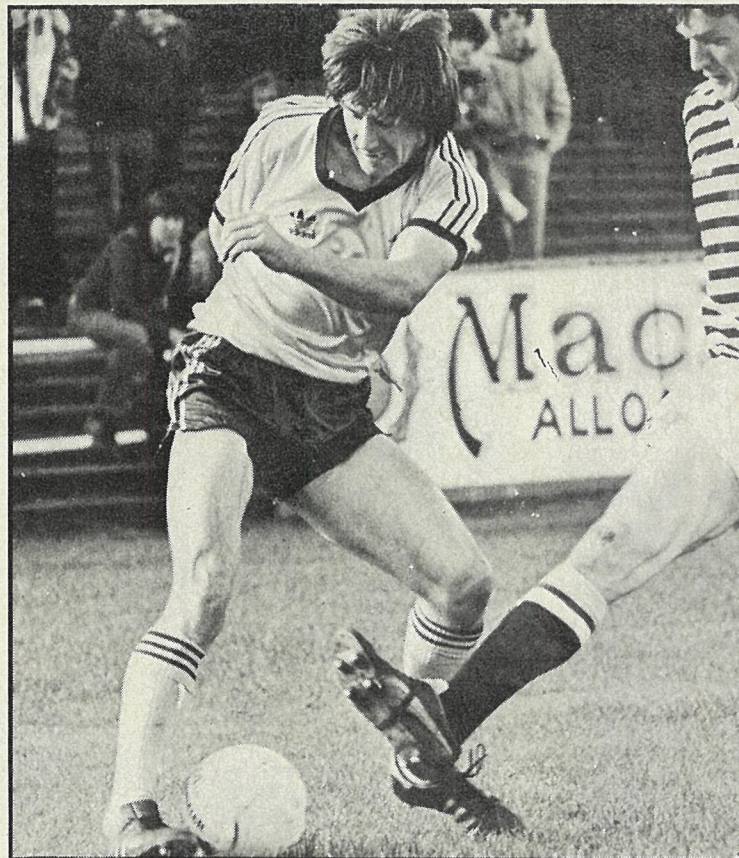
This season the form of the players has been erratic as MacLeod has worked long and hard to put things right.

To be fair to MacLeod, he took over Motherwell after they had gone through a nightmare transitional period under the guidance of former manager Roger Hynd.

It was in that climate two years ago that MacLeod agreed to take over the reins of the troubled Fir Park club as they sat anchored at the bottom of the Premier Division.

"I knew exactly what I was letting myself in for," says MacLeod. "I knew I would have to rebuild the

BELOW: Ally MacLeod, the long-suffering Motherwell boss.
RIGHT: Fir Park striker Willie Irvine.



Manager MacLeod the Mr BAD OF FIR PARK



side and I welcomed that challenge."

There was no miracle worker to save Motherwell's slide at the end of that season, but MacLeod must be praised for the way in which he has wheeled and dealt in the transfer market to bring exciting individuals to Fir Park to brighten an often dull and drab soccer scene.

He wasn't afraid to part with just under £100,000 plus two players for Ayr goalkeeper Hugh Sproat — whom he has always rated as one of the best in the business — and he went back to his former club at Somerset Park last season to unload another £100,000 for midfield schemer Brian McLaughlin, undoubtedly one of the most talented players in the First Division.

Consistency is still escaping the

Fir Park men, but MacLeod, without any rash promises, will rectify that.

He has always insisted that he returned from Argentina a much wiser man for his experiences. He said at the time: "At least now I know who my real friends are."

It was a sad statement from a man who had done so much to give Scottish international soccer the kiss of life, but was let down so outrageously by some key players when it came to the crunch.

Scottish soccer needs a strong and competitive Motherwell team. MacLeod has insisted that in the past his main ambition now is to win the Premier Division title.

If he does manage such a feat, the laughter will have to stop. He undoubtedly deserves all the good luck that deserted him in Argentina ...

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Last season's record. Scottish First Division: Sixth. Scottish Cup: Third Round. League Cup: Second Round.

MOTHERWELL



FRONT ROW (left to right): Stuart Rafferty, Joe Wark, Ian MacLeod, Alistair McLean, Joe Smith, Joe Carson, Gordon Soutar, Chic McLelland.

BACK ROW (left to right): John Gahagan, Willie Irvine, Albert Kidd, Brian McLaughlin, Ian Clinging.

SHOOT!

Liverpool's Avi Cohen takes time off from training prior to a recent Israel international.



RIOT HALTS WORLD CUP-TIE

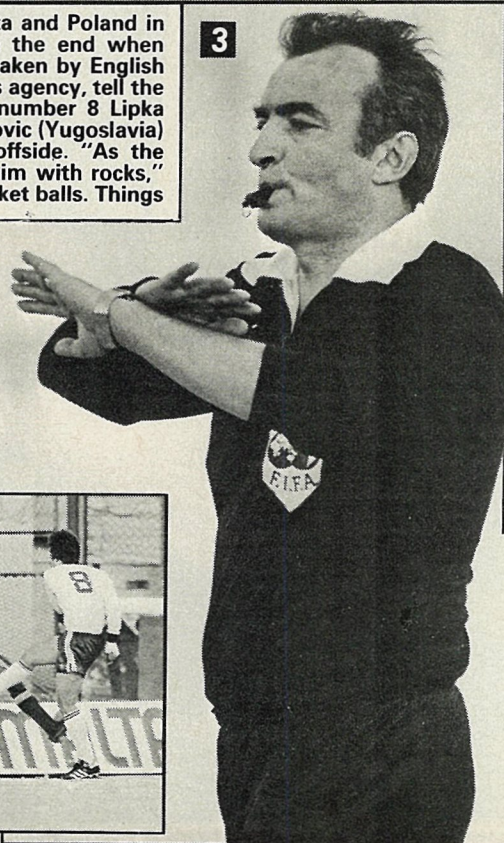


1



THE World Cup qualifying tie between Malta and Poland in Valetta was abandoned 13 minutes from the end when Maltese fans rioted. These dramatic photos, taken by English photographer Dave Rogers of the Bob Thomas agency, tell the story. The trouble started when the Polish number 8 Lipka scored to make it 2-0. Referee Dusan Maksimovic (Yugoslavia) over-ruled his linesman that the goal was offside. "As the linesman ran back, the fans started pelting him with rocks," says Rogers. "They were about the size of cricket balls. Things soon got out of hand. We were trapped in the middle of the pitch for about 30 minutes while the police tried to control the crowd. Every time we all tried to reach the dressing-rooms a barrage of stones would be thrown. The referee made the right decision to call off the game. He couldn't do anything else." Malta now face stern punishment from FIFA, even possible expulsion from the World Cup. The stadium had already been closed by UEFA for two games following crowd riots against Turkey in a European Championship qualifying tie.

3



4



1. Malta defender Edwin Farrugia hurls one of the stones thrown by fans back into the crowd.

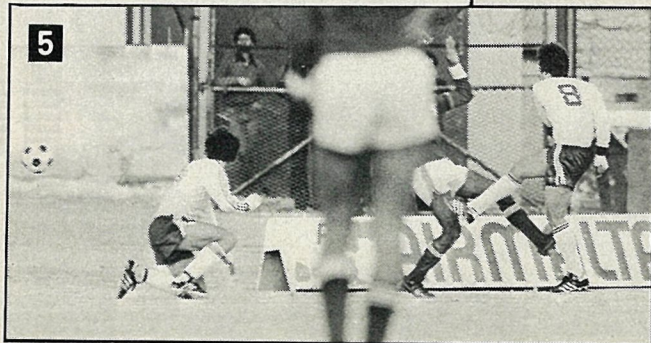
2. Maksimovic is surrounded by police in the centre of the Gzira Stadium, where players, officials and photographers were trapped for half an hour.

3. That's enough. Referee Maksimovic abandons the match.

4. Maksimovic runs the gauntlet as he eventually dashes for safety.

5. Lipka fires home the goal that sparked off the trouble.

5

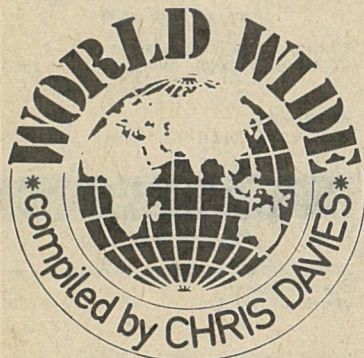


£70,000 SACKING

JOAQUIM Rifé, Barcelona club stalwart and ex-manager, has finally parted company with the Spanish club after over 20 years on the staff as player and coach.

He was initially sacked after a Watergate-style episode, during which the club released tapes of a phone conversation between Rifé and a journalist — with Rifé talking in not altogether flattering terms about the club's current administration.

Rifé claimed unfair dismissal, and Barcelona have now been obliged to pay him £70,000 compensation for the rescission of his contract!



UGLY SCENES MAR SPANISH CUP

The normally placid and uninteresting Spanish Cup burst into sensational action in the Second Round this year — and most of the headlines were of the wrong kind.

Apart from the elimination of First Division giants Espanol, Murcia, Betis and Valladolid (taking the total to seven First Division teams knocked out in the first two rounds) there were picturesque and ugly incidents to suit all tastes.

In Vigo the Balaidos stadium is undergoing World Cup modernisation work, and the lack of floodlights forced an afternoon kick-off. Unfortunately, the match ended in a 0-0 draw, and by the time they'd played extra-time the sun had gone down.

So Celta and Arosa had to re-start 24 hours later . . . just to decide the tie on penalties!

Barcelona had no trouble in disposing of humble Lerida, but they couldn't even manage that without their now usual quota of problems.

Canito got himself sent-off after just nine minutes; made rude gestures at fans and directors; and was promptly suspended from the club, and put on the transfer list.

Down south in Linares, the floodlights failed twice during the local team's attempt to pull back a two-goal deficit against First Division Almeria.

And when the ref failed to give an obvious penalty, the crowd erupted, hurling everything they could lay their hands on.

The most serious victim was Almeria's Maxi, who received a litre-bottle of beer on the head and had to be rushed to the neurological unit in Granada after local doctors said they hadn't the facilities to deal with possible brain damage.

And finally, there were similar incidents during the Malaga-Granada tie; the referee was so frightened at the end of the game that he went to the edge of the tunnel before rapidly blowing the final whistle and diving for safety.

This meant he didn't see the subsequent incidents, including a massive brawl between the players of both teams.

Angry fans were still waiting outside the ground at midnight, and both the visitors and match officials had to be smuggled out of the city under heavy police escort.

VALENCIA, after beating Forest on away goals in the European Super Cup, have formally made a proposition to U.E.F.A. that the winner of the Super Cup should automatically qualify for European competition during the following season.

The Spaniards argue that this would be a shot-in-the-arm for the largely unpublicised Super Cup — but one can't help feeling that if Forest had beaten them they would have said nothing!

CONFIDENT COOLS



AS BELGIUM look forward to a place in the 1982 World Cup Finals, their 1980 European Championship captain Julien Cools (dark shirt) is quite happy with his decision to quit the international scene.

"I'd made up my mind before the Final against West Germany that it would be my last game," he told us. "I'd enjoyed our success in Italy and felt fit and worthy of my place, even at 33."

"I thought it would be better to retire at the top rather than be dropped a few matches later. I was also aware that there are many promising young players in our squad who deserved a chance."

"Now it's up to them to carry on the good work. I think they will. Wilfried Van Moer is captain now and I couldn't begin to tell you how vital he's been in the past couple of seasons."

"Forwards such as Erwin Van den Bergh, Eddy Voordeckers and Jan Ceulemans have shown they have an enormous amount of talent, while our coach, Guy Thys, has done a fine job in moulding the squad together."

"I can't see Belgium NOT being in the next World Cup Finals."

NO CHARITY

THE CHARITY match (for UNICEF) in Barcelona, between the Spanish club and an all-star Humane Stars side was an unqualified success, with over 100,000 fans paying just over £200,000 to watch super-talents like Johan Cruyff, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Hansi Müller and Michel Platini in action.

Barcelona won 3-2, with superb goals from Simonsen, Schuster and Martinez, and Mexican Hugo Sanchez and West Germany's Rainer Bonhof replying for the visitors.

The picturesque note of the night was provided by Johan Cruyff who, after a dazzling display of skills and personality, got himself sent-off in the second-half by commenting on the referee's mental health after he'd disallowed a goal!

CENTRAL CHAMPIONS

ROSARIO CENTRAL clinched Argentina's National Championship by beating surprise finalists Racing Cordoba 5-3 on aggregate.

Central virtually stitched up the title in their home leg, when they hammered Racing 5-1.

In the return match in Cordoba, the home side needed a 4-0 win to carry off the prize, but could only score twice.

Central's win means that they accompany River Plate as Argentina's representatives in the 1981 Copa Libertadores.



50 up . . . West Germany captain Bernd Dietz completed his half century of internationals during the recent Little World Cup tournament in Uruguay.

IN FRANCE, Nantes re-start the League programme after the winter-break with a slender one-point lead over St Etienne . . . and an inferior goal difference.

The Championship is virtually a two-horse race, with only Bordeaux having an outside chance of overhauling the two pace-setters.

Things are much more complicated at the other end of the table, where only four points separate Nice (18th) and Strasbourg (9th).

HOW THE mighty are fallen! Pelé's old club Santos recently had the humiliating experience of travelling to Buenos Aires with the promise (of an intermediary) that they'd play two lucrative friendlies against Argentine teams. But after two days in the Hotel Nogaró they gloomily headed back to Brazil.

No one was interested in playing them . . .

WHY MARADONA CHOSE SOCCER

BETWEEN soccer and studying, it is always preferable to study and if I chose to be a player it was due to the fact that I had no alternative," said Diego Maradona, Argentina's star midfielder.

"I can't set myself up as an example. If I chose soccer it was because I had to sort out extremely difficult economic problems, my own and my family's, and football gave me that chance," said Maradona, who would have liked to carry on with his studies — he gave up after three years in secondary school.

"My girlfriend and I have often talked about studying English, but it is practically impossible to do so, as I always have other commitments, such as pre-match 'concentrations' with the team (Argentinos Juniors), continuous matches and trips abroad and to the provinces that take up all my time," he said.

However, Maradona said that in the not too distant future he hopes to conclude his secondary

studies, since he maintains that "a man's activities can't be submerged in a single speciality, however brilliant that may be, as there are other fields in life that one must also enter in order to have a wider, more integral, education."

"I'm saying this," Maradona added, "for many youngsters who believe that football will solve all their economic problems. I think they are wrong. I took football as a pastime, as a diversion, as I love it, but it can't be everything in life and, in addition, I can assure you, in spite of my short experience, that in football, not all that glitters is gold."

● A few months ago I reported that Argentina's Number One, Diego Maradona, had been charged with assaulting a fan in the dressing-rooms after a League match. The matter has now reached the courts, and when Diego failed to turn up for the hearing he was given a suspended sentence of four months in prison!



LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Saturday December 13 (continued)

Second Division

WREXHAM 0
CAMBRIDGE 0 5,049
Wrexham: Davies, Jones, Kenworthy, Davis, Cegielski, Carrodus (Winter), Fox, Sutton, Edwards, McNeil, Cartwright.
Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Finney, O'Neill, Spriggs, Reilly, Taylor, Christie.
Q.P.R. v. Cardiff postponed.

Third Division

NEWPORT (1) 1 (Gwyther)
CHESTER (1) 1 (Cottam) 4,169

Fourth Division

CREWE (1) 1 (Prophet)
WIGAN (0) 2 (Quinn, Houghton) 2,829

FA Cup

(Second Round)

BARNET (0) 0
PETERBOROUGH (1) 1 (Robson) 4,498

BURNLEY (0) 1 (Potts)
PORT VALE (0) 1 (Miller) 7,497

BURY (1) 2 (Hilton, Mullen)
LINCOLN (0) 0 3,375

CARLISLE (1) 3 (Brown, Beardsley 2)
WALSALL (0) 0 4,778

CHARLTON (0) 2 (Walsh, Hales)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 7,226

MOSSLEY (0) 1 (Skeete)
MANSFIELD (2) 3 (Allen pen., Thomson, Caldwell) 3,680

PLYMOUTH (0) 3 (Sims, Kemp, Urohy pen.)
OXFORD (0) 0 7,264

ROTHERHAM (0) 0
BARNLEY (1) 1 (Parker) 15,426

ST. ALBANS (0) 1 (Mayles)
TORQUAY (1) 1 (Fell) 4,500

SCUNTHORPE 0
ALTRINCHAM 0 3,672

SHEFFIELD UTD. (0) 1 (Hatton)
CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Birch pen.) 18,101

TRANMERE (0) 0
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 3 (Stanton, Robins 2) 6,763

WIMBLEDON (2) 2 (Denny, Leslie)
SWINDON (0) 0 3,470

Scottish Premier

ABERDEEN (0) 2 (McGhee, McCall)
RANGERS (0) 0 20,000
Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Considine, Watson, McLeish, Miller, Strachan, McCall, McGhee, Angus, Scanlon.
Rangers: McCloy, Miller, Dawson, Johnstone, Jackson, Redford (Cooper), McLean (McKay), Russell, McAdam, MacDonald, Johnston.

CELTIC (2) 3 (MacDonald, McGarvey, McCluskey pen.)
HEARTS (1) 2 (MacDonald, Gibson) 13,800
Celtic: Bonnar, Sneddon, Reid, Aitken, MacDonald, McAdam, Provan, Weir, McGarvey, Burns, McCluskey.
Hearts: Brough, More, Shields, Denny, McVie, Robinson, Gibson, MacDonald, Conn, Hamill, O'Brien (O'Connor).

ST. MIRREN (0) 1 (Bone)
PARTICK (0) 0 5,626
St. Mirren: Thomson, Young (Speirs), Beckett, McCormack, Fulton, Copland, Bone, Stark, Somner, Richardson, Weir.
Partick: Rough, Doyle, Whittaker, Welsh, Campbell, Watson, Park, Jardine, O'Hara, Clark, Lapsley (McDonald).

Scottish First

AYR 0
DUMBARTON 0 1,875

CLYDEBANK (1) 2 (Given, Sweeney)
DUNFERMLINE (1) 3 (McNaughton 2 (1 pen.), Leonard) 420

E. STIRLING (0) 0
DUNDEE (0) 2 (Murphy, Geddes) 1,026

HAMILTON (0) 0
FALKIRK (0) 1 (Mackin) 1,200

HIBERNIAN (0) 4 (Rae 2, Callaghan 2 pens.)
ST. JOHNSTONE (0) 0 4,500

RAITH (2) 3 (Harris, Ballantyne 2)
BERWICK (0) 0 1,700

STIRLING (0) 2 (Armstrong, Steele)
MOTHERWELL (0) 0 1,000

Scottish Cup

(First Round)

ALLOA (0) 1 (Holt)
STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 1 (Kirkland) 1,020

BRECHIN (0) 2 (Keating, Cormack)
KEITH (1) 1 (Beverage) 800

EAST FIFE (1) 2 (Mitchell, Halley)
CIVIL SERVICE (1) 1 (Lumsdale) 483

MEADOWBANK (1) 2 (Georgeson, Davidson)
BUCKIE THISTLE (0) 2 (Duncan, Hunter) 500

QUEEN'S PARK (2) 2 (Irvine, McCoy)
MONTROSE (0) 2 (Murray 2) 750

WHITEHILL (0) 1 (Smythe J)
HAWICK R.A. (0) 1 (Colvill) 200

Monday, December 15

F.A. Cup

(Second Round replay)

ALTRINCHAM (1) 1 (Davison (pen))
SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 5,176

Tuesday, December 16

F.A. Cup

(Second Round replays)

BLYTH SPARTANS (2) 2 (Mutrie, Young)
HULL (1) 2 (Norrie, Edwards) AET 6,000

PORT VALE (2) 2 (Farrell, Chamberlain)
BURNLEY (0) 0 7,684

CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Simpson)
SHEFF. UTD (0) 0 14,706

MAIDSTONE 0
GILLINGHAM 0 AET 7,465

Second Division

SWANSEA (0) 1 (Curtis (pen))
WATFORD (0) 0 13,305

Swansea: Stewart, Attley, Hadziabdic, Rushbury, Stevenson, Phillips, Mahoney, James R, James L (Curtis), Charles, Robinson.
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Harrison, Taylor, Sims, Jackett, Ward, Blissett, Armstrong, Train, Poskett.

Wednesday, December 17

First Division

TOTTENHAM (2) 5 (Crooks, Hoddle, Perryman, Archibald, Ardiles)
IPSWICH (1) 3 (Mariner 2, Gates) 22,741
Tottenham: Daines, McAllister, Hughton, Roberts, Lacy, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Villa (Yorath), Hoddle, Crooks.
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, McCall (O'Callaghan), Thijsen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.

F.A. Cup

(Second Round replays)

TORQUAY (3) 4 (Cooper, Fell 3 (2 pens))
ST. ALBANS CITY (0) 1 (Whitehead (pen)) 2,638

YEOVIL (0) 0
COLCHESTER (0) 2 (Lee, Bremner) 5,803

Scottish Cup

(First Round replay)

HAWICK ROYAL ALBERT (2) 4 (Loughran, Kerr, Lawson, Brown)
WHITEHILL (0) 1 (Lees) 320

MONTROSE (0) 2 (Johnston, Wright)
QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0 650

STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 3 (Kirkland, Jenkins, Meakin)
ALLOA (1) 2 (Holt (pen), Grant) 650

Super Cup

(Second-leg)

VALENCIA (0) 1 (Morena)
NOTTM. FOREST (0) 0
Valencia: Sempere, Cervero, Botubot, Arias, Tendillo, Castellanos, Saura, Solsona, Morena, Subirats, Kempes.
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gunn, McGovern, Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Ponte, Francis, Wallace, Walsh.
(Valencia win on away goals)

Friday, December 19

Second Division

BOLTON (1) 1 (Gowling)
Q.P.R. (1) 2 (Stainrod, Flanagan) 6,315

Bolton: Poole, Graham, Burke, Wilson, Jones, McElhinney, Nicholson, Whatmore (Thompson), Hoggan, Kidd, Gowling.
Q.P.R.: Woods, Shanks, Gillard, Fenwick, Wicks, Roeder, Flanagan, King, Stainrod, Currie, Siikman.

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 1 (Williams S)
NOTTS COUNTY (1) 1 (McCulloch) 3,552
Bristol Rovers: Thomas, Jones, Pulis, McCaffrey, Lee, Cooper, Williams (S), Barrowclough, Mabbutt, Williams (D), Barrett.
Notts County: Leonard, Benjamin, O'Brien, Kelly (Doherty), Kilcline, Richards, Harkouk, Masson, McCulloch, Hunt, Wood.

SHREWSBURY (0) 0
LUTON (0) 1 (Ingram) 4,521
Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Larkin, Petts, Griffin (Biggins), Keay, Tong, Atkins, Bates, Dungworth, Cross.
Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, West, Hill, Stein, Ingram (Antic), Aizlewood, Moss.
Cardiff v. Sheff. Wed postponed.

Third Division

SWINDON (1) 3 (Carter, Mayes, Greenwood)
WALSALL (0) 1 (Buckley) 4,523

Fourth Division

DONCASTER (1) 2 (Little, Jennet og)
MANSFIELD (0) 1 (Caldwell) 3,650



COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Wignall)
YEOVIL (1) 1 (Green) 3,394

DONCASTER (0) 2 (Little, Mell)
BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Williams) 6,398

ENFIELD (1) 2 (Burton 2)
HEREFORD (0) 0 2,263

FULHAM (1) 1 (Greenaway)
BRENTFORD (0) 0 11,261

GILLINGHAM 0
MAIDSTONE 0 9,099

HULL (1) 1 (Edwards)
BLYTH SPARTANS (0) 1 (Mutrie) 6,050

MILLWAL (0) 0
EXETER (0) 1 (Rogers) 3,426

Paul Walsh heads Charlton's first goal against Bournemouth.

DUNDEE UNITED (0) 1 (Dodds)
AIRDRIE (0) 0 4,770

Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Holt, Kopel, Phillip, Hegarty, Narey, Payne, Bannan, Sturrock, Pettigrew, Dodds.
Airdrie: Martin, Cairney, Roger, March, McCluskey, McKeown, Walker (McCulloch), Gordon, Clark, Anderson, Russell (Thompson).

KILMARNOCK (2) 3 (Armstrong, Bourke, Hughes)
MORTON (1) 3 (Thomson 2, Busby) 2,400

Kilmarnock: Wilson, Johnson, Cockburn, Davis, McDicken, Hughes, Crammond, Mauchlen, Bourke, Street, Houston.
Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, McLaughlin, Orr, McCormack, Hunter, Tolmie, Busby, Thomson, Ritchie.

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

SOUTHEND (1) 3 (Otolakowski, Gray, Cusack (pen))
TORQUAY (1) 1 (Cooper) 4,205

STOCKPORT (1) 1 (Thorpe)
BURY (0) 2 (Cruickshank, Johnson) 1,941

Saturday, December 20

First Division

ARSENAL (1) 2 (Rix, Vaessen)
MANCHESTER UNITED (0) 1 (Macari) 33,730
Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, Walford, Young, Vaessen, McDermott, Stapleton, Gattling, Rix.
Man. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, McIlroy, Jovanovic, Moran, Coppell, Duxbury, Jordan, Macari, Thomas.

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Ainscow)
IPSWICH (1) 3 (Mariner, Wark, Brazil) 16,161
Birmingham: Wealds, Langan, Hawker, Curbishley, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Betschin, Worthington, Gemmill, Givens.
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, McCall, Thijsen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, O'Callaghan.

BRIGHTON (1) 1 (Robinson)
ASTON VILLA (0) 0 16,425
Brighton: Moseley, Gregory, Stevens, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, McNab, Ritchie, Robinson, Clark, O'Sullivan.
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Williams, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Geddis (Deacy), Cowans, Morley.

LIVERPOOL (1) 1 (Kennedy (R))
WOLVES (0) 0 33,563
Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Irwin, Hansen, Kennedy (A), Lee, McDermott, Kennedy (R), Souness, Heighway, Johnson.
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Brazier, Hughes, Hollifield, Hibbit, Daniel, Atkinson, Eves, Bell, Richards.

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 1 (Reeves)
LEEDS (0) 0 31,866
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Booth (Henry), Boyer, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison, Reeves.
Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Harris, Hird, Connor, Sabella, Graham.

MIDDLESBROUGH (2) 4 (Hodgson 3, Johnston)
TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Lacy) 15,992
Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Bailey, Johnston, Ashcroft, Nattrass, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Shearer, Armstrong.
Tottenham: Aleksic, McAllister, Hughton, Roberts (Yorath), Lacy, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Villa, Huddle, Crooks.

NORWICH (2) 2 (Royle, Paddon)
COVENTRY (0) 0 12,630
Norwich: Baker, Bond, Muzinic (Powell), McGuire, Hoadley, McDowell, Mendham, Fashanu, Royle, Paddon, Goble.
Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak, Gooding (Jones), Thompson, Hateley, Hunt.

NOTTM. FOREST (2) 3 (Ponte, Walsh, Francis)
SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Rowell) 23,151
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Lloyd, Gunn, O'Neill, Ponte, Francis, Wallace, Walsh.
Sunderland: Turner, Whitworth, Bolton, Hindmarch, Elliott, Rowell, Arnott, Brown (Cooke), Hawley, Chisholm, Cummins.

SOUTHAMPTON (2) 4 (Gilbert og, Channon, Moran, George)
CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 2 (Sealy, Allen) 19,332
Southampton: Wells, Golac, McCartney, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Moran, Channon, George, Holmes, Baker.
Crystal Palace: Fry, Hinshelwood, Boyle, Nicholas, Cannon, Gilbert, Murphy, Francis, Allen, Sealy, Hilaire.

STOKE (1) 1 (Chapman)
LEICESTER (0) 0 13,433
Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Thorley, Randall (Cook), Heath, Chapman, Bracewell, Munro.
Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Gibson, Peake, Scott, O'Neill, Hamill (Goodwin), Melrose, Young, Wilson, MacDonald.

WBA v. Everton postponed.

Second Division

CAMBRIDGE 0
BLACKBURN 0 4,389
Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Finney, O'Neill, Spriggs, Reilly, Taylor, Christie.

Blackburn: Butcher, Speight (Burke), Branagan, Kendall, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Crawford, Lowe, McKenzie, Parkes.

CHELSEA (0) 0
ORIENT (1) 1 (Mayo) 15,943
Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Rofe (Driver), Bumstead, Droy, Chivers, Britton, Fillery, Lee, Walker, Rhoades-Brown.
Orient: Day, Fisher, Roffey, Gray, Taylor T. Parsons, Godfrey, Moores, Mayo, Bowles, Taylor P.

NEWCASTLE 0
BRISTOL CITY 0 14,100
Newcastle: Carr, Carney, Johnson, Martin, Boam, Mitchell, Shinton, Treweek, Waddle, Shoulder, Wharton.
Bristol City: Shaw, Sweeney, Hay, Aitken, Rodgers, Marshall, Tainton, Mabbutt, Ritchie, Garland (Pritchard).

OLDHAM (1) 2 (Steele, Wyld)
SWANSEA (1) 2 (James R, Curtis) 5,486
Oldham: Platt, Sinclair, Blair, Keegan, Clements, Hurst, Wyld, Fitcher, Steele, Garner, McDonough.
Swansea: Stewart, Attley, Hadziabdic, Mahoney, Stevenson, Phillips, Curtis, James R, James L, Charles, Robinson.

PRESTON (1) 1 (Elliott)
WREXHAM (0) 1 (Edwards) 4,946
Preston: Tunks, Taylor, McAteer, Burns, Baxter, O'Riordan, Doyle, Coleman, Elliott, Bruce, Houston.
Wrexham: Davies, Jones, Kenworthy, Davis, Cegielski, Buxton (Winter), Fox, Sutton, Edwards, McNeil, Cartwright.

WATFORD (2) 3 (Taylor, Armstrong, Poskett)
GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Kilmore) 10,209
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Harrison, Taylor, Sims, Jackett, Callaghan, Armstrong, Blissett, Train, Poskett.
Grimsbey: Batch, Moore D, Crombie, Waters, Wiggington, Moore K, Brolly, Whymark, Drinkell, Mitchell, Ford (Kilmore).

WEST HAM (1) 3 (Cross, Goddard, Brooking)
DERBY (1) 1 (Swindlehurst pen) 24,671
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Holland, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.
Derby: Jones, Emery, Richards, Clark, Osgood, Ramage, Powell S, Hector, Biley, Swindlehurst, Emson.

Third Division

BURNLEY (1) 2 (Taylor 2)
PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Murphy pen) 5,678

BARNLEY (1) 2 (Aylott, Parker)
BLACKPOOL (0) 0 10,862

CHARLTON (0) 2 (Powell, Hales)
CARLISLE (1) 1 (Brown) 5,444

CHESTER (1) 1 (Ludlam)
GILLINGHAM (1) 2 (Crabbe, Price) 1,740

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Hodge pen)
NEWPORT (0) 0 2,160

EXETER (0) 2 (Rogers, Pratt)
CHESTERFIELD (1) 2 (Birch, Crawford) 4,075

HUDDERSFIELD 0
PORTSMOUTH 0 10,869

MILLWALL (0) 2 (Chatterton, Bartley)
OXFORD (1) 1 (Cooke) 2,785

READING 0
FULHAM 0 4,455

ROTHERHAM (2) 4 (Moore, Fern, Towner 2)
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Johnson) 5,913

SHEFF UNITED (2) 3 (Hatton 2, Tibbitt)
HULL (1) 1 (Edwards pen) 10,720

Fourth Division

CREWE (0) 1 (Greenhoff)
DARLINGTON (1) 1 (Stalker) 3,282

HALIFAX (2) 2 (Dunleavy, Nattress)
PORT VALE (2) 2 (Dunleavy og, Woolsall) 1,215

HARTLEPOOL (1) 1 (Hampton)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Gynn) 3,100

HEREFORD (2) 4 (McGrellis 3, Showers)
BRADFORD (0) 0 2,114

LINCOLN (1) 2 (Hobson, Shipley)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 3,391

NORTHAMPTON (2) 3 (Phillips, Denyer, Bowen)
ROCHDALE (1) 2 (Wellings 2) 1,705

SCUNTHORPE (1) 2 (Lambert, Stewart)
TRANMERE (0) 0 1,664

YORK (1) 4 (McDonald, Eccles 2, Ford)
ALDRSHOT (0) 1 (Sanford) 1,583

Wimbledon v. Wigan postponed.

Scottish Premier

CELTIC (1) 2 (McAdam, McCluskey)
AIRDRIE (0) 1 (Clark pen) 11,900
Celtic: Bonnar, McGrain, Reid, Aitken, McDonald, McAdam, Weir, Provan, McGarvey, Burns, McCluskey.
Airdrie: Martin, Cairney, Rodger, McLuskey, Anderson N, Anderson G, Walker (McCulloch), McKeown (McGuire), Gordon, Russell, Clark.

HEARTS 0
MORTON 0 5,900
Hearts: Brough, More, Shields, Denny, McVie, Robinson, Hamill, Gibson (O'Connor), Conn, O'Brien, MacDonald (Masterton).
Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Orr, McNeil, Busby, Thomson, Tolmie, Ritchie (Bryce).

KILMARNOCK (1) 1 (Bourke)
RANGERS (0) 1 (Russell) 9,500
Kilmarnock: Wilson (A), McLean, Coburn, McLurg, Clarke, Armstrong, Houston, Gibson (Maxwell), Bourke (McBride), Wilson (G), Hughes.
Rangers: McCloy, Jardine, Dawson, Johnstone (Cooper), Jackson, Bett, McLean, Russell, McAdam, MacDonald, Johnston (MacKay).

PARTICK (1) 1 (Watson pen)
ABERDEEN (1) 1 (McCall) 4,000
Partick: Rough, Doyle, Whittaker, Campbell, Anderson, Watson, Park, Jardine, Torrance (Lapsley), O'Hara, Clark.
Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Considine, McLeish, Garner (Simpson), Miller, Strachan, McCall, McGhee, Angus, Scanlon (Davidson).

ST MIRREN (0) 3 (Bone 2, Somner)
DUNDEE UTD (2) 3 (Dodds, Payne, Pettigrew) 5,300
St Mirren: Thomson, Young, Beckett, McCormack, Fulton, Copland, Bone, Stark, Somner, Richardson, Weir.
Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Holt, Kopel, Phillip, Hegarty, Narey (Pettigrew), Bannon, Payne, Gibson, Sturrock, Dodds.

Scottish First

BERWICK (0) 0
FALKIRK (2) 4 (Oliver 2, Kettings 2) 682

DUMBARTON (1) 1 (Gallagher (B))
DUNFERMLINE (0) 0 7,500

E. STIRLING (0) 1 (McCaig)
ST JOHNSTONE (0) 1 (Morton) 750

MOTHERWELL (0) 3 (Forbes, Clelland 2)
CLYDEBANK (0) 0 2,000

RAITH (0) 2 (Forsyth, Miller)
AYR (1) 1 (Morris) 2,000

Stirling v Hamilton postponed.

Scottish Second

ALLOA (2) 2 (Holt, Morrison)
EAST FIFE (1) 1 (Duncan) 700

ARBROATH (2) 2 (Hyslop, Gavin)
CLYDE (0) 2 (Dempster, Masterton) 537

QUEEN'S PARK (1) 2 (McGregor, Grant)
ALBION (0) 0 850

STRANRAER (0) 0
BRECHIN (0) 1 (Keating) 200
Montrose v Forfar, QoS v Cowdenbeath postponed

Scottish Cup

(First Round replay)

BUCKIE THISTLE (0) 3 (Scott, Macdonald, Hunter)
MEADOWBANK (1) 2 (McCallan 2) 1,340

Monday, December 22

F.A. Cup

(Second Round, second replays)

GILLINGHAM (0) 0
MAIDSTONE (0) 2 (Newson, Ovard) 7,941

HULL (0) 2 (Norrie, Croft)
BLUTH SPARTANS (0) 1 (Mutrie pen) 5,914 AET at Leeds

Friday, December 26

First Division

ASTON VILLA (1) (Withe)
STOKE (0) 0 34,658
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Williams, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.
Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hamson, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Doyle, Randall (Griffiths), Heath, Chapman, Bracewell, Munro.

COVENTRY (1) 1 (Daly)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 16,066
Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak, Daly, Thompson, Hateley, Hunt.
Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Bailey, Johnston (McAndrew), Ashcroft, Nattrass, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Shearer, Armstrong.

CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 2 (Sealy 2)
ARSENAL (1) 2 (Stapleton, McDermott) 29,850
C. Palace: Fry, Hinshelwood, Boyle, Nicholas, Cannon, Gilbert, Murphy, Francis, Allen, Sealy, Hilaire (Smilie).
Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, Walford, Young, Hollins, Vaessen, Stapleton, McDermott, Rix.
EVERTON (0) 0
MANCHESTER CITY (0) 2 (Gow, Power) 36,194
Everton: McDonagh, Gidman, Bailey, Wright, Ratcliffe, O'Keefe, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, McBride (Lyons).
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Boyer, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison, Reeves.

IPSWICH (1) 2 (Wark, Brazil)
NORWICH (0) 0 27,890
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, McCall, Thijsen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates (O'Callaghan).
Norwich: Baker, Bond, Powell, McGuire (Woods), Hoadley, Watson, Mendham, Fashanu, Royle, Paddon, Goble.

LEEDS 0
BIRMINGHAM 0 19,214
Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Hird, Connor, Harris, Sabella, Graham (Parlane).
Birmingham: Wealds, Langan, Lees, Curbishley, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Betschin, Worthington, Gemmill, Dillon.

LEICESTER (0) 0
BRIGHTON (0) 1 (Gregory) 19,570
Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Gibson, Peake, Scott, O'Neill, Hamill (Welsh), Melrose, Young, Wilson, MacDonald.
Brighton: Moseley, Gregory, Stevens, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, McNab, Ritchie, Robinson, Clark, O'Sullivan.

MANCHESTER UNITED 0
LIVERPOOL 0 57,073
Man. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, McIlroy, Jovanovic, Moran, Coppell, Duxbury, Jordan, Macari, Thomas.
Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy A, Irwin, Kennedy R, Hansen (Money), Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Case.

SUNDERLAND 0
WBA 0 28,296
Sunderland: Turner, Whitworth, Bolton, Hindmarch, Elliott, Rowell, Arnott, Cooke, Hawley, Chisholm, Cummins.
WBA: Godden, Batson, Cowdrell, Moses, Wile, Bennett, Robson, Brown, Regis, Owen, Barnes.

TOTTENHAM (2) 4 (Archibald, Brooke 2, Crooks)
SOUTHAMPTON (2) 4 (Baker, George, Moran 2) 28,792
Tottenham: Aleksic, Yorath, Hughton (O'Reilly), Roberts, Lacy, Perryman, Brooke, Archibald, Villa, Huddle, Crooks.
Southampton: Wells, Golac, Agboola, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Moran, Channon, George, Holmes, Baker.

WOLVES (0) 1 (Richards pen)
NOTTM. FOREST (1) 4 (Brazier og, Gray pen, Palmer og, Ponte) 31,588
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Hollifield, Daniel, Brazier, Hughes, Hibbit, Atkinson, Bell, Richards, Eves.
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Lloyd, Gunn, O'Neill, Ponte, Francis, Wallace, Walsh.

THE RELUCTANT HERO

WHETHER or not Malcolm Allison can perform what many already regard as the impossible, and save Crystal Palace from relegation, only time will tell.

But whatever the outcome at the end of the season, Big Mal appears to have kicked off with one notable success already.

Almost before the ink had dried on the back page headlines heralding his second coming, Allison, in typical style, announced that Gerry Francis, the club's former England skipper, would no longer be playing in his accustomed midfield role. Instead, Malcolm intended using him as a sweeper.

The move raised more than a few eyebrows, because while the rest of the team had been struggling, Francis had been turning in a string of outstanding performances, reminiscent of his England form of a few years ago.

But Allison was adamant that the switch would not only be to the benefit of the club, but the player as well. He even promoted him to player-coach at Palace.

And no one who saw Palace's vital 4-1 victory over fellow strugglers Norwich, and the part that Francis played in it, can have been left in any doubt that the big man looks to have pulled off a master-stroke.

No wonder it set Allison bubbling as much as the champagne he once appeared to enjoy so much.

"I had long ago decided that if ever I got the chance to manage Gerry, I would play him as a sweeper," Malcolm revealed.

"I'm a great believer that the person with the greatest quality, should be in the position where he is likely to receive the ball most often. Gerry has shown this season that he's been the club's best player by far, that's why I decided the move was right.

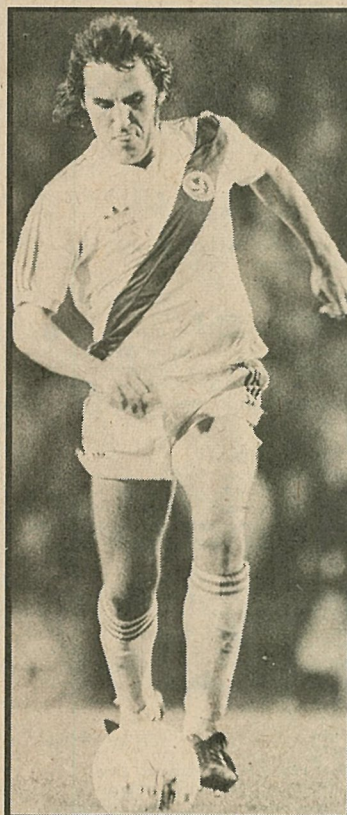
"The role is still very new to him, but already he has shown what he can do there.

'Sweeper'

"I know he is keen to get back into the England reckoning, and I believe he can make it — as sweeper.

"If what I hear is correct, and Ron Greenwood is thinking of changing the England style to accommodate a sweeper, then Francis has got to be his man.

"I know Gerry was reluctant to make the change, because he enjoyed playing in midfield, and liked to push forward and score goals. Well, you can't score better goals than the one he got against Norwich."



As Allison indicated, despite all the praise, Francis himself has still to be totally convinced about the move.

"My problem is, after playing for 12 years up front and in midfield, this new position isn't natural to me," he says.

"Malcolm seems to be greatly influenced by the way the West Germans used Beckenbauer in the past, and now Schuster. And I suppose you can't fail to be impressed with the success they have enjoyed using a sweeper. But I'm so used to being involved in what goes on in midfield, that I was reluctant, and still am to some extent, to a permanent change.

"But obviously if this is the role Malcolm wants me to play, then of course I'll continue in it.

"He's absolutely right about me getting more time and space to dictate things at the back. I certainly didn't have any fears about being able to handle the role, it's just that I thought I might become bored there.

"I know I have been playing well this season, and I've been disappointed not to be selected for even the England 'B' team. But perhaps this will be the turning point."

Who knows! Like the future of Palace themselves, only time will tell!



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Spurs v Arsenal... January 17th

MERSEYSIDE derby matches may create more noise; and Manchester derby clashes might divide a city. But few derby games can rival Tottenham versus Arsenal for sheer fanatical interest among both sets of supporters.

"Our fans absolutely hate it if we lose to Arsenal," admits Tottenham defender Don McAllister. "You can see the real dislike they have for The Gunners — and that goes on for weeks if we lose to them."

"I'm firmly convinced that it wouldn't matter to a great many fans if we lost every match of the entire League season — bar two. If we just beat Arsenal twice, a lot of our fans would still be happy."

"And I'm sure the same goes for the Arsenal supporters. It's the real thing, deep support for one of the clubs in North London. And it makes for a great atmosphere when the two sides meet."

Tottenham tackle Arsenal at

"But now we want to go out and prove to Arsenal that wasn't a fluke. If we can win this one, too, we'll have had a pretty good season against them, even though we lost 2-0 at Highbury earlier this season."

McAllister admits Arsenal's record in League matches between the two sides is much the more impressive of the two.

"I'm not really sure why that is," he says. "They've had the ascendancy alright but I don't think it's anything psychological, or anything like that."

"A lot of games we have lost by a single goal so they've almost all been tight. They've just tended to go Arsenal's way, but we are all hoping that League Cup win



Don McAllister

against them this season will be a turning point.

"It's our turn to win some League games against them and we'll all be trying to do just that in this match."

McAllister says Spurs must aim for a little more consistency in their play; not only against Arsenal, but for the future.

"We've played some superb football at times, like when we beat Arsenal in the League Cup. But then we've tended to go to the next match and play badly."

"If we can eliminate that kind of inconsistency from our play, we should improve a lot."

'Better'

"I think the Cup-tie atmosphere doesn't make it easier to win the match. I don't believe Arsenal necessarily have better players than us; it's just that they tend to play better on the day."

"The Arsenal game is not like a League game; it has all the commitment, passion and fervour of a vital Cup match and anyone will tell you it's damn hard to win those kind of matches."

So can Tottenham do it this time? "I certainly hope so," says McAllister. "I'd like us to win and win well. Beating Arsenal is a great feeling, for it's not just the supporters who want to beat The Gunners."

"My best memory from Arsenal-Tottenham clashes is the match about four seasons back when we won 2-0 in the League at Highbury. We had a great spell at that time and winning over at Highbury was a marvellous experience."

David Price heads the first of Arsenal's two goals in their derby win at Highbury five months ago.

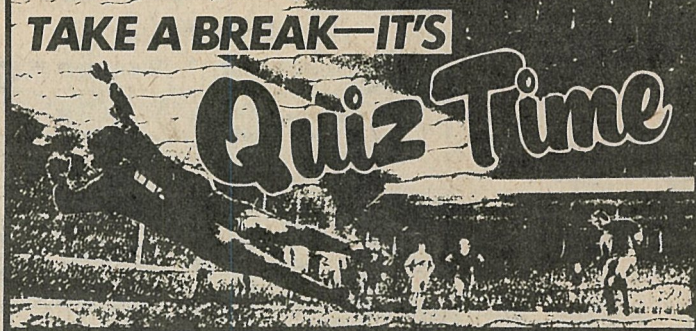
Happy to win just two games a season!

White Hart Lane this Saturday knowing they have not beaten The Gunners on the ground for six years.

Yet Tottenham start with heads high, because they've already beaten Arsenal in the League Cup at White Hart Lane this season.

"Winning that match will give us a lot of confidence," says McAllister.





GROUND S

Which clubs would you be visiting if you stood on the following terraces?

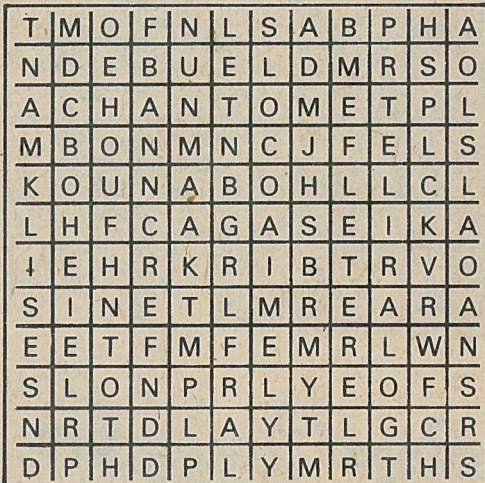
1. Roker Park
2. Old Show Ground
3. Manor Ground
4. Cappielow Park
5. Muirton Park
6. Belle Vue Ground
7. Broomfield Park
8. Annfield Park
9. Carrow Road
10. Edgar Street

QUOTES

The following quotes appeared in SHOOT, dated January 10th. Do

you know who said them?

1. "Mind you, I do agree players should stop the clenched fist salute. This can spark trouble especially if it's done to rival fans, which sometimes happens."
2. "The memories will live on forever, though. They can't take that away from me or any other Scottish football fan..."
3. "Now 32, I have a contract which carries me through the next four years, with the prospect of going up into Division Three this season."
4. "Our young side is enthusiastic and hard working, and those qualities are infectious."
5. "I was ambitious as a player and that ambition remains now I am a manager."



TRACE-A-TEAM

The names of 11 past or present Manchester City players are spelt out in this frame in straight lines, either horizontally, vertically or diagonally and forwards or backwards. See how many you can spot.



PICTURE PUZZLE

Study the action photograph, taken during the Arsenal v. Stoke City clash on September 13th, and see if you can answer the following questions.

1. Can you identify the Arsenal player in mid-air scoring for The Gunners?
2. What was significant about this goal?
3. Where was the game played?
4. Did Arsenal win 1-0, 2-0 or 3-0?

TRUE or FALSE?

1. Brian Clough began his managerial career with Fourth Division Doncaster Rovers.
2. Clyde play their Scottish Second Division games at Shawfield Stadium.
3. Stoke City central defender Mike Doyle is an England international player.
4. Queens Park Rangers have won the F.A. Cup on three occasions.
5. Third Division Swindon Town are nicknamed Robins.

ANSWERS:

Silkman, Palmer.
ford, Bell, Viljoen, Barnes, Buckley, Donachie, Watson, Fother, Hart, TRACE A TEAM, Corrigan, 4 2-0.
club, 3. Highbury, home of Arsenal.
som, 2. It was his first goal for the
PICTURE PUZZLE 1. Kenny San-
Hereford.
Aldridge, 8. Stirling, 9. Norwich, 10.
5. St Johnstone, 6. Doncaster, 7.
thorpe, 3. Oxford United, 4. Morton.
GROUNDS, 1. Sunderland, 2. Scan-
Peter Cormack.
Murphy, 5. Patrick Thistle boss
lepool), 4. Lincoln manager Colin
Derek Johnstone, 3. John Bird (Hart-
QUOTES 1. Gordon McQueen, 2.
won the trophy, 5. True.
True, 4. False — they have never
began with Hartlepool, 2. True, 3.
TRUE OR FALSE: 1. False — he

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (1) Tap. (3) Mariner. (5) McNab. (7) Crest. (11) Sunderland. (12) Dodd. (14) Page. (15) Richardson. (16) Roker. (19) Adorn. (21) Proctor. (22) Son.

DOWN:— (1) Throb. (2) Panic. (3) Man. (4) Roe. (5) Manager. (6) Airdrie. (8) Red Card. (9) Thomson. (10) Watch. (11) Sup. (13) Don. (17) Kop. (18) Rooks. (19) Aston. (20) Our.

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If Sammy Lee had ever doubted the difficulty of forcing his way into Liverpool's first team, he had the ultimate proof last season.

Lee had to wait six months for his first League match of the campaign and then helped the team to their biggest win of the season, a 5-3 trouncing of Norwich at Carrow Road.

He went straight back into the reserves afterwards but says: "I knew it was going to happen. It wasn't really like being dropped because Graeme Souness, whom I replaced, was bound to come back.

"He was playing so well at the time that he couldn't be left out, so I knew before I went out that it was a one-off match for me."

This season, Lee has made himself a regular in the Liverpool first team. And though he doesn't have the flair of Souness and McDermott, many will tell you that he's just as crucial to the team.

getting into the team is that it gives all the other reserves heart. Avi Cohen and David Fairclough have also been given their chances to prove themselves over a long period this season and it means the other reserves feel there is hope for them.

"It can be soul-destroying in the reserves, especially when you go back after a period in the first team.

"But I've never thought of leaving Anfield. I used to watch them as a kid and they're the only team I ever wanted to play for.

"I was nervous when I ran out for my first game at Anfield but once I heard the Koppites sing out my name and realised they were all behind me, I was all right."

Lee already has three Central League Championship medals with Liverpool. This season, he hopes to get a League Championship medal.

"It's going to be a very hard season. Ipswich

are the best team we've played so far but there are plenty of other good sides."

It's often said that Liverpool are able to bring players in from the reserves without too much time for adjustment because all the sides are groomed to play the same way.

Lee doesn't go along with that. "The secret is that Liverpool always do the simple things well. It's all about movement.

"Playing in the first team has made me a better player. It's not difficult with so many great players around me. Graeme Souness has been playing right next to me in midfield and he's been a great help."

Another player who has helped shape Lee's career is a person who's name wouldn't be too familiar on the Kop. "That was Kevin Kewley, who used to be captain of our reserve side. He's playing in America now but while he was here, he helped me a lot."

LEE~vital to Liverpool

He says: "My role is to give a bit of width to the team. I battle for the ball in midfield but the boss also wants me to get wide on the right when I can.

"I found it difficult at first because I'd only ever played in central midfield. But in the first team, they want me to do the job that Jimmy Case was doing until he was injured."

Case's injury brought Lee into the first team, presumably for just another temporary job. But this time, manager Bob Paisley promised him that if he was successful, he would stay in.

The kid didn't need telling twice. "That was a tremendous incentive for me. But I still can't think of myself as a first team player. I'll only believe that after I've played 300 games!

"You have to realise that at Anfield you're fighting to get into the best club side in Europe. You're always likely to find yourself battling for a place with two internationals.

"The nice thing about someone like myself

Lee shows his aggression against Norwich.



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Next week you'll be able to insert eight more stickers into your Panini Football '81 album presented free with this week's SHOOT. You can buy more stickers from your newsagent in packets of four for 5p until you have collected the complete set of 558. Free stickers are only given with SHOOT in issues dated January 24 and January 31. (We regret the free gifts are only available to readers in the U.K. and Eire).

The stickers shown here are included in the collection, but are not necessarily among those given away with SHOOT. You can swap doubles with friends.

Apart from your free stickers next week's all-star programme includes . . . Arsenal and Hearts team group & At Home with Man. United's Jimmy Nicholl & Ray Evans (Stoke) and Focus on Leeds 'keeper John Lukic all IN COLOUR.

- Tommy Booth — risking his career for Manchester City.
- Bosses destined to become the great managers of the future.
- Hard-working Holland — West Ham's unsung hero.
- Dave Johnson off target for Liverpool.
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BIRTHDATE: March 5, 1953
HEIGHT: 182 cms
WEIGHT: 82 kilos
PREVIOUS CLUB: FC Partizan Belgrade
MARRIED: To Biba
CHILDREN: Mikela (6) and Barbara (3)
CAR: Daimler 4.2
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: IPC's
Homes & Gardens
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Johan' Cruyff
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Tottenham
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD:
 George Best
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Motor
 racing
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Too
 numerous to choose one
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My first
 for Chelsea v Liverpool
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing
 promotion last season
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Fulham
FAVOURITE FOOD + DRINK: All fish
 and wine
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Saturday
 evenings out
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: The
 Yugoslavian coast
FAVOURITE TV STAR: Brian Moore
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF:
 Walk with my kids
FAVOURITE SINGER: Elton John
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Coming
 home, relax and watch TV
BEST FRIEND: My wife
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:
 Sosbich, my coach in Yugoslavia
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: 14 full
 caps for Yugoslavia and 23 Under 21
 caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy
**IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD
 YOU DO?** Teacher
**WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD
 WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?**
 Bjorn Borg

SHOOT!